

## Remote Control

JULIE PACE

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Prominent gun-rights advocates in Congress are now calling for a national discussion about restrictions to curb gun violence, signaling that the horrific shooting at a Connecticut elementary school could be a tipping point in a debate that has been dormant for years.

White House officials said



**New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg calls on Congress to tighten gun laws, Monday, Dec. 17, 2012.**

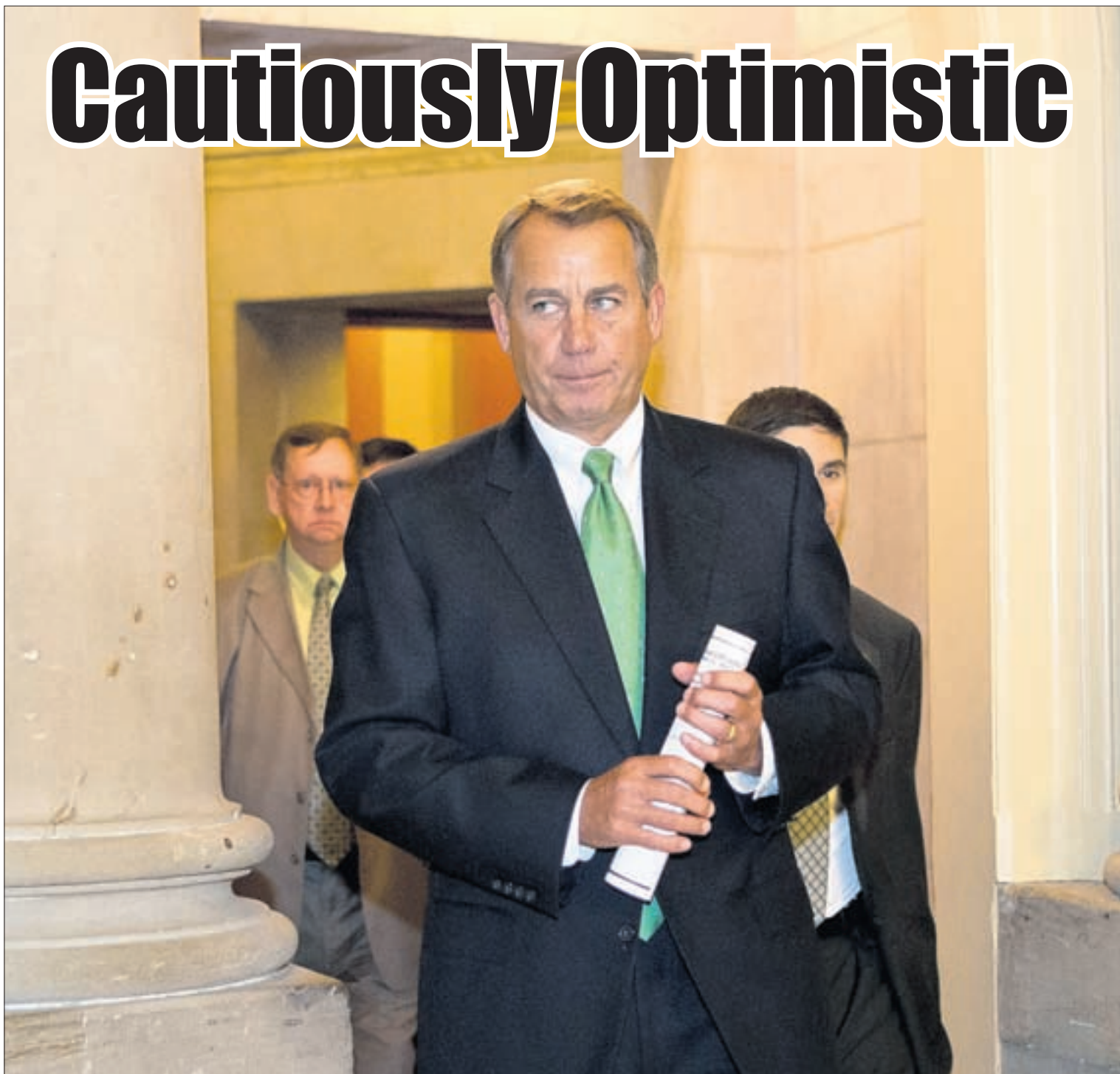
(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

President Barack Obama would make preventing gun violence a second-term policy priority. But it was unclear what Obama would pursue or how, and aides said stricter gun laws would be only part of any effort.

The president met Monday afternoon with Vice President Joe Biden and a handful of Cabinet members to begin discussions on ways the country should respond to the Newtown shootings. Among those in attendance were Attorney General Eric Holder, Education Secretary Arne Duncan, and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

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## Cautiously Optimistic



**House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio walks to the House floor to deliver remarks about negotiations with President Barack Obama on the fiscal cliff on Capitol Hill in Washington.**

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

**AP sources:**

## Last minute Obama offer moves toward Boehner

By DAVID ESPO

JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Barack Obama has agreed to curtail future cost-of-living increases for recipients of Social Security and softened his demand for higher taxes at upper income levels as part of ac-

celerating talks with House Speaker John Boehner to avoid a "fiscal cliff," people familiar with the talks said Monday.

Speaking a few hours after Obama and Boehner met at the White House, these people said the president was now seeking higher tax rates beginning at incomes

over \$400,000 for couples, down from the \$250,000 level that was a cornerstone of his successful campaign for re-election.

Obama's willingness to reduce future cost-of-living increases in Social Security and numerous other government programs marked a clear a concession to

Boehner, although it came with an asterisk. The president wants lower-income recipients to receive protection against any loss from scaling back future cost of living increases, these officials said.

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# Sad procession begins in Connecticut

**NEWTOWN, Connecticut (AP)** — Newtown began burying its dead Monday, laying to rest two 6-year-old boys, the first of the 20 children killed in last week's school massacre to receive funerals. Two funeral homes filled with mourners for Noah Pozner, whose twin sister survived the rampage, and Jack Pinto, who loved the New York Giants football team. The gunman also killed six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary, and his mother in her home, before committing suicide. A rabbi presided at Noah's service, and in keeping with Jewish tradition, the boy was laid to rest in a simple brown wooden casket with a Star of David on it. Noah's twin, Arielle, who was assigned to a different classroom, survived the killing frenzy by 20-year-old Adam Lanza, an attack so horrifying that authorities could not say three days later whether the school would ever reopen. Newtown, a community of 27,000 people, will face many more funerals over

the next few days, just as other towns are getting ready for the holidays. Beyond Newtown, parents nervously sent their children back to class in a country deeply shaken by the attack, and in a measure of how the tragedy has put

said he had fired guns at shooting ranges over the past several years but there was no evidence he did so recently as practice for the rampage. At Jack Pinto's Christian service, hymns rang out from inside the funeral home, where the

old Luke Wellman remembered a boy who loved Victor Cruz, a star football player for the Giants. Cruz played in Sunday's game with "Jack Pinto 'My Hero'" written on one of his cleats. Luke said: "I'm here to support my teammate and friend." A mourner, Gwendolyn Glover, said the service carried a message of comfort and protection, particularly for other children. "The message was: You're secure now. The worst is over," she said. At Noah's funeral, the boy was described a smart, funny and mischievous child who loved animals, Mario Brothers video games and tacos. "I will miss your forceful and purposeful little steps stomping through our house. I will miss your perpetual smile, the twinkle in your dark blue eyes, framed by eyelashes that would be the envy of any lady in this room," his mother, Veronique Pozner, told mourners, according to Noah's uncle, Alexis Haller, who provided the remarks to The Associated Press. □



Visitors light candles at a memorial to shooting victims, Monday, Dec. 17, 2012, in Newtown, Conn. (AP Photo/Jason DeCrow)

people on edge, schools were locked down in at least four places. As investigators worked to figure out what drove Lanza to lash out with such fury — and why he singled out the school — federal agents

boy lay in an open casket. Jack was among the youngest members of a youth wrestling association in Newtown, and dozens of little boys turned up at the service in gray Newtown Wrestling T-shirts. Ten-year-

## Oklahoma:

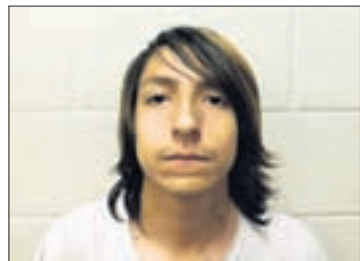
# Rifle found during search of teen's home

**SEAN MURPHY**  
**Associated Press**

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)** — A small-caliber rifle and notes about a possible attack on a northeast Oklahoma high school were found at the home of a teenager accused of plotting to shoot classmates and detonate bombs, police said Monday.

Sammie Eaglebear Chavez, 18, lived at home with his mother in Bartlesville, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Tulsa. He was arrested early Friday morning and has been charged with a felony count of planning to perform an act of violence. News of the search came as the U.S. is reeling from the massacre at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, where a 20-year-old man shot and killed 20 children and six adults Friday. The shooting reignited the

emotional debate over gun control in the U.S. Several politicians and relatives of shooting victims have demanded stricter gun laws. But others have defended the right of Americans to carry guns. Some Oklahoma lawmakers, reacting to the Connecticut shooting,



Sammie Eaglebear Chavez is being held on a charge for what police allege was a plan to shoot and kill students at Bartlesville High School. (AP Photo)

called Monday for allowing teachers and school administrators to carry firearms on school campuses. Rep. Mark McCullough, a Republican, said he is working on a bill that would al-

low teachers and school administrators to receive firearms training through the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training, which would authorize them to carry weapons at school and at school events. "It scares me that a madman could come into my children's school and kill my children," said McCullough, who has two boys, ages 7 and 9. "We need to harden these targets, harden these facilities with simple, common-sense steps. 'It's not rocket science. It's just overcoming what might be traditional, emotional, reactive feelings toward guns in schools.'"

Investigators still are sifting through possible evidence recovered during Friday's search in Oklahoma to determine how serious the threat was, said Bartlesville Police Capt. Jay Hastings. "Part of the factor is wheth-

er the person is capable of carrying out the threat. Do they have weapons? In this case, it's just something he's communicated, but then he's also ... written some notes about it, so that makes it a little more serious," Hastings said. He didn't elaborate on what the notes said or who owned the rifle.

In a separate incident, a Guthrie High School student was arrested Monday afternoon on a complaint of making a terroristic hoax following a reported threat to a school assembly that the student made last week, according to Police Chief Damon Devereaux. "It was a large-scale threat," said Devereaux, who declined to identify the student, who is a minor. "In light of what happened in Connecticut and the Bartlesville deal, we cannot take anything too lightly," Devereaux said. □

## Investigation into Benghazi attack closed

**MATTHEW LEE**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — An independent investigation into the deadly Sept. 11 attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, is complete, and Congress will be briefed on its findings this week, the State Department said Monday.

The classified report by the Accountability Review Board will be sent to Congress on Tuesday, a day before the panel's two most senior members will testify in closed session before the House and Senate foreign affairs committees. The board was established to examine the attack that killed U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

An unclassified version of the report is expected to be released to the public after board chairman Thomas Pickering, a former ambassador, and Adm. Mike Mullen, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, appear at Wednesday's hearings, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said. The House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations committees will then hear open testimony on the report on Thursday from William Burns and Thomas Nides, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's two main deputies, Nuland said. Clinton created the board in the aftermath of the Benghazi attack to look into security procedures before and during the incident in which heavily armed militants laid siege to the mission and a nearby CIA annex. She had been scheduled to appear before the committees this week, but canceled after fainting and sustaining a concussion while recovering from a stomach virus that left her severely dehydrated. Nuland said Clinton had been given a copy of the report on Monday. She added that Clinton was "on the mend" but was obeying her doctors' recommendations to stay at home this week and recuperate. □



# Black congressman picked for SC Senate seat

JENNIFER STEINHAUER

JEFF ZELENY

© 2012 New York Times

Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina on Monday selected Rep. Tim Scott to replace Jim DeMint in the U.S. Senate, an appointment that will make Scott the first black senator from the South since the late 19th century.

"It is a historic day in South Carolina," Haley said, announcing her decision at the Capitol in Columbia with Scott at her side. She added, "He earned this seat for what I know he is going to do to make South Carolina and our country proud."

The governor said that she chose Scott for his business vision and commitment to conservative principles. She said that he "will fly through 2014," when he faces election to the Senate seat.

Scott, who is expected to

be sworn in Jan. 3 with the rest of the freshman class of senators, led a moment of silence for the victims of the Connecticut school shooting before he accepted the position. He praised his mother, a hard-working single woman, who he said "understood that love sometimes comes at the end of a switch."

He offered a glimpse into his conservative fiscal philosophy, saying, "If you have a problem with spending, there's not enough revenue to make up for it." He noted that he had a steep learning curve ahead and praised his predecessor, saying: "There is no way to fill his shoes. There is no way to have another Jim DeMint in America."

The governor considered a number of potential contenders, particularly Jenny Sanford, the ex-wife of former Gov. Mark Sanford,

who supported Haley in her race two years ago. But in choosing Scott, the governor selected a lawmaker with a strong conservative voting record during his two years in Congress.



Rep. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley during a news conference at the State Capitol in Columbia, S.C., Dec. 17, 2012. Scott was chosen by Gov. Haley to replace Sen. Jim DeMint in the U.S. Senate.

(John W. Adkisson/The New York Times)

Scott, 47, also offers a involving story and background, one that is in scant supply in the Republican Party right now. He was, by his account, a lost child who struggled with school

and with life until a Chick-fil-A franchise owner took him on as a protege and schooled him in conservative principles.

"Coming from a single-parent household and almost flunking out of high school," Scott said in 2010, during his bid for the House, "my hope is I will take that experience and help people bring out the best that they can be."

Before he was elected to Congress, Scott served for 13 years on the Charleston County Council and for two in the South Carolina House.

Although the Republicans have far fewer minorities and women in Congress than the Democrats, the GOP, with Monday's announcement, will now be able to claim the only current black member of the Senate, as well as two of the three Latino senators. □



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## Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii dead at 88

ANDREW TAYLOR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, the influential Democrat who broke racial barriers on Capitol Hill and played key roles in congressional investigations of the Watergate and Iran-Contra scandals, died Monday. He was 88. Inouye, a senator since January 1963, was currently the longest serving senator and was president pro tempore of the Senate, third in the

line presidential succession. His office said Monday that he died of respiratory complications at a Washington-area hospital. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid announced Inouye's death on the Senate floor. Inouye was a World War II hero and Medal of Honor winner who lost an arm to a German hand grenade during a battle in Italy. He became the first Japanese-American to serve in Con-



Sen. Daniel Inouye died of respiratory complications, Monday, Dec. 17, 2012. He was 88.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

gress, when he was elected to the House in 1959, the year Hawaii became a state. He won election to the Senate three years later and served there longer than anyone in American history except Robert Byrd of West Virginia, who died in 2010 after 51 years in the Senate.

After Byrd's death, Inouye became president pro tem of the Senate, a largely ceremonial post that also placed him in the line of succession to the presidency, after the vice president and the speaker of the House. Inouye served as chairman of the committee that investigated the Iran-Contra arms and money affair, which rocked Ronald Reagan's presidency. A quiet but powerful lawmaker, Inouye ran for Senate majority leader several times without success. He gained power as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and chairman of the defense appropriations subcommittee before Republicans took control of the Senate in 1994. When the Democrats regained control in the 2006 elections, Inouye became chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee. He left that post two years later to become chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee. Inouye also chaired the Senate Indian Affairs Committee for many years. □

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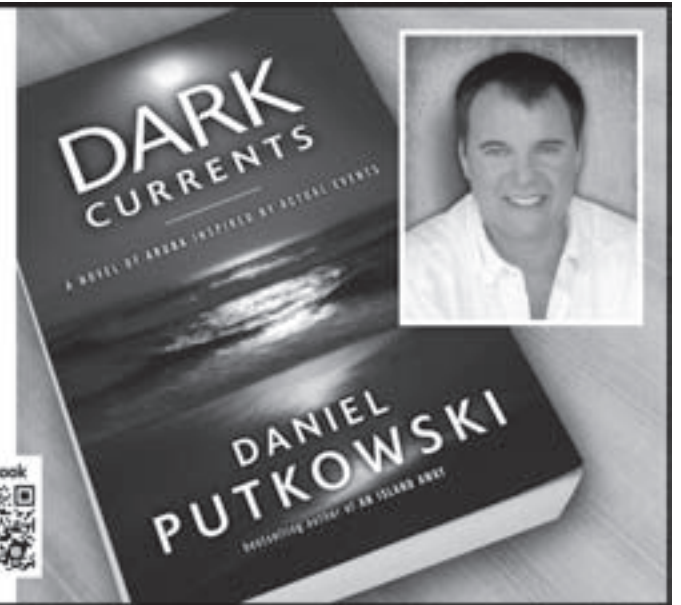
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### AP sources:

## Last minute Obama offer moves toward Boehner

Continued from front

Nor did Obama's offer include raising the age of Medicare eligibility from 65 to 67, a Republican goal that has drawn particularly strong objections from Democratic liberals. Several officials also said during the day that Boehner's offer late last week to accept higher tax rates included provisions that would mean higher taxes on investment income and dividends earned by wealthy Americans. The people who described the talks did so on condition of anonymity, citing the secretive nature of the discussions. The maneuvering is aimed at reaching an agreement that would include cancellation of a scheduled year-end hike in taxes for nearly all wage-earners as well as spending cuts at the Pentagon and in domestic programs across the government. Economists inside and outside the government have

warned that the combination of the two, set to begin at year's end, could send the economy into recession.

Other major issues are part of the negotiations. Without action by Congress, for example, long-term unemployment benefits will expire for millions at the end of the year, and doctors will face a cut in the payments they receive for treating Medicare patients. Obama has also called for assistance for hard-pressed homeowners as well as fresh economic stimulus measures, and some Democrats want to include a sizeable amount of disaster aid in any legislation to offset the cost of Superstorm Sandy.

On another point, Obama's latest offer dropped his earlier proposal to extend a payroll tax cut due to expire at year's end. At the White House, spokesman Jay Carney sidestepped when asked about curbing cost-of-living increases for benefit

programs. The president "is prepared to make tough choices. He also understands that his bill will not,

that he seeks that is fair and that seniors aren't bearing the burden so that the healthy bear less — those

who can afford it most bear less."

A spokesman for Boehner declined comment on the tax proposals.

Obama and Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner met with Boehner and his top aides at the White House for less than an hour during the day. While neither side provided significant details, Republicans have made it clear in recent days that it is the president's turn to propose savings from Medicare and other benefit program following Boehner's agreement last week to let tax rates rise at incomes higher than \$1 million.

Officials familiar with the talks said that under the Ohio Republican's proposal, the top tax rate on capital gains would go to 20 percent, up from the current 15 percent. □



**President Barack Obama, accompanied by a U.S. Secret Service agent, waves at reporters shouting questions at him regarding the fiscal cliff as he walks from the White House across Pennsylvania Avenue to Blair House in Washington.**

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

as written, likely be what the final compromise, if there is one, looks like," he said.

"But he insists and will insist before he signed anything that there is the balance

## Settlement reached on US home raids

**SAMANTHA HENRY**  
**Associated Press**

**NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)** — Eight New Jersey residents who accused federal immigration officials of conducting warrantless raids of their homes will share \$295,000 in a settlement. The residents and homeowners brought a case in

2008 against more than 30 Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers accused of a series of pre-dawn raids. The Center for Constitutional Rights helped represent the residents. It said Monday federal agents can't "lie or force their way into people's homes in the middle of the

night, point guns at children and use force" without a warrant or consent. U.S. permanent resident Ana Galindo says ICE agents barged into her Paterson home, refused to accept her state driver's license as valid identification and pointed a gun at her 9-year-old son. □

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## Gun control gets unlikely backers in Congress

Continued from front

It remains to be seen whether Obama and Congress can turn their rhetoric into action or whether the shock over the Connecticut shootings will fade before they do. Public opinion has shifted against tougher gun control in recent years, and the gun lobby is a powerful political force, particularly in Republican primaries. Also, Obama has called for a national dialogue after other mass shootings during his presidency, only to see those efforts take a backseat to other pressing issues. This time, the president has vowed to use "whatever power this office holds" to safeguard American children against gun violence, suggesting he may put political muscle behind an assault weapons ban. He has long supported reinstating the ban, which expired in 2004, but never pressed for in his first term. Liberal Democrats on Capitol Hill are already laying the groundwork for legislation to outlaw the military-style arms. "Everything should be on the table," West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin declared Monday. He is a conservative Democrat, avid hunter and lifelong member of the National Rifle Association. Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa proposed a debate not just about guns but also about mental issues. Virginia's Mark Warner, one of the few Senate Democrats who has found favor

with gun rights groups, reversed course to back restrictions on assault weapons.

"The status quo is not acceptable anymore," he

banning the sale of handguns to anyone except law enforcement officers, the highest percentage since 1999.

Obama's spokesman reit-



**Press Secretary Jay Carney briefs reporters at the White House in Washington, Monday, Dec. 17, 2012. Carney says the president will engage the American people and lawmakers on the issue of gun violence in the coming weeks.**

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

said.

Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid vowed Congress would soon "engage in a meaningful conversation and thoughtful debate about how to change laws and culture that allow violence to grow." The Senate Judiciary Committee will hold hearings on gun violence early next year.

The American public has been split over tougher gun laws, and there is no early indication that the Newtown shootings are changing many minds. A Washington Post/ABC News poll conducted over the weekend showed 54 percent favor tougher laws, about the same as the 51 percent in favor earlier in the year. Seven in 10 are opposed to

erated his support for reinstating the assault weapons ban. Obama was outspoken in his calls for Washington to renew the ban during his 2008 White House run, but he made no effort to get it done during his first four years in office.

At the White House, press secretary Jay Carney said stricter gun control laws were part of the solution but not the only one. He said the president would engage in "the coming weeks" in a process that includes input from law enforcement, mental health experts and lawmakers.

"It's a complex problem that will require a complex solution," Carney said. "No single piece of legislation, no single action will fully address the problem."

Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein said she will introduce legislation next year to ban the sale of new assault weapons, as well as big clips, drums and strips of more than 10 bullets.

Police say the Newtown gunman, Adam Lanza, was carrying an arsenal of ammunition and used a high-powered rifle similar to the military's M-16.

White House officials said the president feels some urgency to address gun violence in the wake of Friday's violence. But Obama is not expected to take any formal action before the end of the year given the all-consuming efforts to resolve the "fiscal cliff" and nominate new Cabinet secretaries.

Some gun control advocates urged Obama and lawmakers to act quickly, while the sorrow and shock of the Newtown shooting is still raw.

"It demands immediate national action," New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said. "It needs to be at the top of their agenda." Since the shootings, the powerful National Rifle Association lobby has been silent. Requests for comments have gone unanswered, and officials are turning down interview requests until they have more details. Their 1.7 million-strong Facebook group has disappeared, and the group's Twitter account — which is a favorite platform to communicate with supporters — has not sent a message since before the grim reality of Friday's shootings set in. □

## Court rejects gay couples' equal benefits

MATT GOURAS

Associated Press

HELENA, Montana (AP) —

Montana's highest court on Monday rejected an "overly broad" request that gay couples be guaranteed the same benefits as married couples, but left the door open for advocates to modify their case and try again.

The plaintiffs promised to do so, declaring they are "on the right side of history" and will inevitably win.

The Montana Supreme Court wrote in Monday's 4-3 decision Monday that a lower court was within its discretion when it earlier dismissed the request.

In that earlier decision, a Helena district court judge dismissed the six couples' case last year after state prosecutors argued that spousal benefits are limited by definition to married couples. A voter-approved amendment in 2004 defined marriage as between a man and a woman.

District Judge Jeffrey Sherlock based his ruling in part on the state's marriage amendment, and said that an order to force state lawmakers to write new laws would violate the separation of powers.

The majority justices upheld that decision. The court wrote that the gay couples want the court to intervene "without identifying a specific statute or statutes that impose the discrimination they allege." □





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# Draghi: Europe needs more bank safeguards

**DAVID McHUGH**  
**Associated Press**  
**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)** — The head of the European Central Bank says EU leaders must move forward and set up an authority to clean up failed banks in a way that doesn't leave taxpayers stuck with the bill. Draghi said Monday that's the next important step after European Union leaders

agreed last week to put the ECB in charge of overseeing banks as the bloc's single supervisor. The top central banker for the 17 EU countries that use the euro sought to discourage the idea that a bank cleanup fund would itself require a lot of money from taxpayers. "It's not a bailout fund," Draghi said in an appear-



Chairwoman of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs Sharon Bowles, left, talks to President of the European Central Bank Mario Draghi, during a meeting of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, at the European Parliament building, in Brussels on Monday, Dec. 17, 2012.  
 (AP Photo/Yves Logghe)

mark of Europe's debt crisis. Governments are tempted to bail out banks, because of their key role in keeping the economy going. But the bailout costs in turn can burden government finances. The mere threat that they might has made it difficult for Spain to borrow money affordably, for example. As supervisor, the ECB could remove a bank's license and sanction it for breaking rules. The resolution authority could go further and force losses on bank shareholders and creditors before tapping taxpayers' money. "A single resolution mechanism is very important because it allows us to cope with bank failures, which may well happen, in a way that does not force us to use taxpayer money, and at the same time it does not destroy major parts of the payments system," Draghi said. □

## Italian worker, 2 others abducted in Syrian plant

**FRANCES D'EMILIO**  
**Associated Press**  
**ROME (AP)** — Three workers at a Syrian steel plant, including an Italian, have been kidnapped, officials said Monday. Italy's foreign ministry did not say where or when the kidnappings occurred but that the plant is located in the regime stronghold of Latakia city on Syria's Mediterranean coast. The ministry statement said the two workers kidnapped with the Italian have other nationalities, but did not identify them. Italy's news agency ANSA said the Italian captive works as an engineer at the Hmisho steel plant in Latakia, but that he was abducted near Tartus, the Syrian port that is located about 55 miles (90 kilome-

ters) south of Latakia and contains the only naval base Russia has outside the former Soviet Union. Sky TG24 TV in Italy said the other two hostages are Russians, but there was no immediate confirmation of that. Interfax, a Russian news agency, quoted Sergei Markov, a spokesman for the Russian Embassy in Syria, as saying it's looking into reports that two of the three captives are Russian. Last summer, two Italian electrical engineers were abducted by militants in Syria and freed after eight days in captivity. They told reporters that they were kidnapped by several masked men as they drove to a Syrian airport. The two Italians were then helped by the Syrian army and returned home in July. □

ance before the European Parliament's economic and monetary affairs committee. Any funding given to the cleanup authority would be to cover "limited, well-defined expenses" that are required to finance a dead bank's breakup or restructuring.

European leaders are trying to create EU-wide banking supervision and backstops to keep bank failures from wiping out government finances, as happened in bailed-out Ireland and threatened to happen in Spain. The link between troubled banks and governments has been a hall-

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## Egypt:

## Low vote turnout raises questions, ire

HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press

**CAIRO (AP)** — Just under a third of voters turned out for the first stage of the referendum on a constitution meant to be a historic milestone in setting Egypt's future — a showing critics say deepens doubts over the legitimacy of a charter that has already polarized the country.

The dismal showing also raises the question whether Egyptians have been turned off by the turmoil that has characterized the country's politics throughout the nearly two years since the ouster of Hosni Mubarak's autocratic regime. Last Saturday's

lic cares little about.

Besides the low turnout, preliminary results show that the "yes" vote carried the first round only by a slim margin of 56 percent — hardly the resounding endorsement the Islamists were looking for to silence the increasingly vocal and united opposition that called on supporters to vote "no."

For weeks, legal experts in Egypt have said if turnout is low and the final majority in favor of the constitution is lower than 70 percent, it would raise damaging questions about how representative the

law in Egypt, raising critics' fears of sharp limitations on many civil rights. Opponents were outraged that Morsi's Islamist allies pushed the draft to approval in hasty, dead-of-night session of the Constituent Assembly that wrote the document, despite a boycott by the assembly's liberal and Christian members. A significant sector of the public saw it as the latest of a series of moves by the Muslim Brotherhood, from which Morsi hails, to monopolize power.

Hundreds of thousands of people held street protests across the country



**An Egyptian woman chant slogans denouncing President Mohammed Morsi during a protest supporting the Wafd party, in Cairo, Egypt, Monday, Dec. 17, 2012. A mob of hardline Islamists known as Salafis attacked the Cairo offices of the liberal Wafd party, smashing windows and doors last week.** (AP Photo/Nasser Nasser)

voting took place in 10 of Egypt's 27 provinces, including Cairo and the nation's second largest city Alexandria. Some 26 million voters were eligible to vote, but only 32 percent of them did. Voting in the remainder 17 provinces will take place the coming Saturday. The turnout was the second lowest of the relentless series of five nationwide elections that Egyptians have been called to in the 22 months since Mubarak's fall in last year's popular uprising. The highest was nearly 60 percent in the election of parliament's law-making lower chamber. The lowest was an embarrassing 8 percent for the vote for the upper chamber, a largely toothless body that the pub-

document is of the nation. But a spokesman for Islamist President Mohammed Morsi dismissed any talk of thresholds.

"The new constitution will be adopted and go into effect if the result of the referendum is 50 plus 1 percent of votes," said Yasser Ali. "This is what is in the election law and it has not been changed." The charter has raised furious emotion in Egypt the past three weeks, sparking violence between the Islamist camp and their opponents that left at least 10 dead and 1,000 wounded. The 63-page, 236-clause document would increase the implementation of Islamic

demanding Morsi call off the referendum. When he refused, the opposition turned to trying to rally the public to a "no" vote.

Morsi's Islamist supporters brought out their own mass rallies, accusing the opposition of trying to thwart the democratic process. They claim they have a mandate to bring greater Islamic rule because of their victories in last winter's parliamentary elections. Proponents have campaigned furiously for a "yes" vote — some pushing the idea it would bring stability after months of turmoil, and many others taking a religious tack, equating support for the charter with support for Islam. □

## AROUND THE WORLD

## Mafia boss undergoes brain surgery

**ROME (AP)** — Convicted Cosa Nostra boss Bernardo Provenzano underwent brain surgery on Monday after injuring his head in a fall at a top-security Italian prison where he is serving several life sentences, Italian news reports said. The ANSA news agency, reporting from Palermo, Sicily, said surgeons successfully removed a cerebral hematoma, or blood-filled swelling, caused by the fall a few days earlier. The reports didn't identify the hospital where the operation was performed, but Provenzano has been jailed in a top-security prison in Parma, in northern Italy, on the mainland. ANSA said Provenzano was in an induced coma after the operation. □

## Ahmadinejad cancels visit to Turkey

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)** — An Iranian semi-official news agency is reporting that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has canceled a visit to Turkey. Mehr's Monday report said the cancellation was because of the president's busy agenda. But the decision comes during a dispute over the deployment of NATO Patriot missiles in Turkey. Ahmadinejad was supposed to have a one-day visit Turkey on Monday to meet Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The Pentagon has announced it will send two batteries of the Patriot anti-missile system as part of a larger NATO force to protect Turkish territory. Iran has warned against the deployment. □

## Somalia pirates hit a 6 month slump

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — NATO officials say no ships have been hijacked off the Somali coast in the second half of this year, reflecting a sharp decrease in piracy along one of the world's busiest shipping routes. Commodore Ben Bekker attributed the success to the continuing efforts of an international fleet along the coastline, combined with better security measures by merchant ships and increased pressure on the pirates within Somalia itself. Bekker, who until recently commanded NATO's four-warship flotilla in the area, says "This has been the first clean slate for a long time." Still, he noted, pirates continue to hold five ships and 136 hostages seized in previous years. □

## Chevron offers to settle spill lawsuit

**SAO PAULO (AP)** — Brazilian prosecutors say Chevron Corp. has offered to pay \$150 million to settle two civil lawsuits stemming from an offshore oil spill. The lawsuits seek \$20 billion in damages. Federal prosecutors say they must await an environmental agency report on the spill before accepting any Chevron offer. That report must corroborate Chevron's assertions that the spill had no significant impact on the environment. Chevron says in a Monday statement that company officials are "optimistic that a satisfactory settlement can be reached soon." Earlier this year, Chevron paid \$18 million in fines to Brazilian authorities. □

## Judge, 3 family members beheaded

**KIEV, Ukraine (AP)** — Ukrainian police are investigating the grisly murder of a judge and three family members whose decapitated bodies were discovered over the weekend in the judge's apartment, officials said Monday. The beheaded bodies of Judge Volodymyr Trofimov, 58, his wife, son and the son's girlfriend were discovered by the judge's stepson, who came to visit the family Saturday in their apartment in the eastern city of Kharkiv, federal officials said. The heads are still missing, Interior Minister Vitaly Zakharchenko said. Investigators believe the slayings could either be related to Trofimov's work or to his renowned antique collection. □





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## Syrian VP says army can't win, calls for negotiation

**ZEINA KARAM**

**Associated Press**

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Syria's vice president has acknowledged that the army cannot defeat the rebel forces trying to topple the regime and called for a negotiated settlement to save the country from ruin.

The rare, candid comments by Farouk al-Sharaa, a long-time close aide to President Bashar Assad's family, suggested his embattled regime may be contemplating an exit strategy as rebel forces move closer to the capital Damascus. He spoke in an interview published Monday by Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar.

"I don't see that what the security forces and army units are doing will lead to a definitive victory," al-Sharaa

was quoted as saying in the interview conducted in Damascus.

"All these opposition forces can only conclude the battle to topple the regime if their goal is to push the country into chaos and a cycle of violence that has no end," he added.

Al-Sharaa pushed for a negotiated political settlement that includes the formation of a national unity government with wide jurisdiction.

His comments coincided with a step-by-step peace plan for Syria outlined by Iranian officials on Sunday. It would be capped by Syrian elections that presumably could usher in a new leader in Damascus. Tehran is Assad's closest and perhaps only remain-



**Syrian Vice President Farouk al-Sharaa talks to journalists in Rome.**  
(AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

ing regional ally and the initiative suggests its embrace of the Syrian president could be cooling. The initiative — while almost certain to be rejected by Syrian rebel factions — marks one of the clearest

signals yet that Iran's leadership is looking to hedge its bets and remain a player in Syrian affairs if Assad is toppled.

It was unclear whether al-Sharaa's comments were timed to coordinate with

the Iranian initiative.

"Despite his rhetoric, Bashar Assad may now be contemplating an exit strategy — one which would allow him to seek refuge abroad with his neck intact," said Anthony Skinner, an analyst at Maplecroft, a British risk analysis company.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland said the statement by al-Sharaa "speaks to the pressure that the Syrian regime is under."

"Regrettably, however, it hasn't changed the regime's behavior, including the brutality it's inflicting on its own people," she added. Al-Sharaa, 73, a long-time loyalist to the Assad family, has been a controversial figure since the start of the uprising. □

## Aggressive wave of bombings kills 25 across Iraq

**SAMEER N. YACOB**

**Associated Press**

**BAGHDAD (AP)** — A wave of bombings hit ethnically disputed northern areas and other parts of Iraq on Monday, killing 25 people and wounding dozens.

The attacks deepen fears that militants are seeking to reignite ethnic and sectarian violence in the country, where tensions remain high over areas contested between the central government and Kurdish minority. Deadly violence also continues between the country's two dominant sects — Sunni and Shiite Muslims.

The deadliest of Monday's attacks took place in al-Mouafaqiyah, a village inhabited by families from the Shabak ethnic group. Seven people were killed and 11 were wounded in the bombing, according to police officials.

The village lies near the city



**People inspect the scene of a car bomb attack in al-Mouafaqiyah, a village inhabited by families from the Shabak ethnic group, near the city of Mosul, 225 miles (360 kilometers) northwest of Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, Dec. 17, 2012. Three car bomb explosions in Iraq's north on Monday, killing and wounding scores of people, police said.**  
(AP Photo)

of Mosul, 360 kilometers (225 miles) northwest of Baghdad, and is claimed by Arabs, Turkomen and Kurds. The Shabak have their own distinct language and religious beliefs.

Elsewhere in the north,

two car bombs went off in a majority Turkomen neighborhood in the city of Tuz Khormato, killing five people and wounding 26, said Mohammed al-Asi, a spokesman for Salahuddin provincial council.

Like the area near the oth-

er attack, Tuz Khormato, about 210 kilometers (130 miles) north of Baghdad, has a mix of Arabs, Kurds and Turkomen competing for control of the city. He said that the targets in these two provinces were "carefully selected" as part of the efforts to undermine the national unity. Tuz Khormato borders the autonomous Kurdish region. Last month, it was the scene of a shootout between Kurdish guards and Iraqi police that killed one civilian. The Iraqi military and Kurdish

fighters responded by moving additional troops into disputed areas, raising the specter of further clashes.

In a statement, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki condemned specifically the attacks in the disputed areas, where he said targets were "carefully selected" to attempt to undermine national unity. "The government will take whatever necessary measures to provide protection for all citizens, especially the targeted groups," al-Maliki said. □

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## Chinese bloggers blast Japan poll

**BEIJING (AP)** — The election victory of Japan's main conservative party, led by a prospective prime minister known for his hardline China views, drew a muted response Monday from Beijing but withering criticism from Chinese bloggers.

After weeks of sparring over contested East China Sea islands and warning about resurgent militarism in Japan, the Chinese Foreign Ministry largely avoided mentioning specific disputes and instead said the onus is on Tokyo to improve relations. Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe led his Liberal Democratic Party back to power in a landslide win Sunday.

"China attaches importance to the direction of Japan's policy toward China, and hopes Japan

will deeply reflect on and properly handle the current difficulty in the China-Japan relations," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a regular press briefing.

In contrast to Beijing's low-key approach, the Chinese blogosphere crackled with barbs for the LDP win and especially for Abe. Some said Abe's win would push Japan further to

the right and bring about the country's ruin. Others called for a boycott of Japanese goods after Abe was reported in postelection comments to have called for a tougher line over the disputed islands, known as Senkaku in Japan and the Diaoyu in China.

Asked about Abe's comments, Hua, the spokeswoman, reiterated Beijing's claim that the islands are part of China. She urged Abe, without naming him, to focus on the overall benefits that good relations bring to both countries.

"We hope the Japanese politicians can look at the big picture of the development of the China-Japan relations and work with China to drive the sound and stable growth of relations forward," Hua said. □



**Japan's Liberal Democratic Party President Shinzo Abe during a press conference at the party headquarters in Tokyo Monday, Dec. 17, 2012.**  
 (AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

## Nigeria FM: Kidnap about fuel payments

**BASHIR ADIGUN**  
**Associated Press**  
**ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)** — Nigeria's finance minister on Monday blamed her 83-year-old mother's kidnapping on those angered by the government's decision to stop making some payments for gasoline subsidies, directly linking the abduction to a program that lawmakers have described as a multi-billion dollar scam.

After calling journalists to her office to thank the country for its prayers while her mother was abducted, Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala made the claim that seems to implicate some of the country's top business and political elite. Those are the same people linked to the ruling People's Democratic Party, the party of President Goodluck Jonathan, who appointed the former World Bank official. Okonjo-Iweala's mother, Kamene Okonjo, was kidnapped Dec. 9 from her hometown of Ogwashi-Uku in Delta State. During her time held captive, Okonjo received no food or water, her daughter said.

Instead, her abductors talked to her about fuel payments and another government program aimed at reinvesting money saved from not making the payments, Okonjo-Iweala said. "They told her that I must get on the radio and television and announce my resignation," the minister said. "When she asked why, they told her it was because I did not pay oil subsidy money." □

## Chinese leaders promise reform, spending

**JOE McDONALD**  
**BEIJING (AP)** — China's new Communist Party leaders are promising reforms aimed at reducing reliance on exports and more spending if needed to prop up a shaky economic recovery. In the first statement of their economic goals since taking power in November, the new party leaders pledged continuity Sunday with long-term plans aimed at nurturing self-sustaining growth and raising incomes. There was no indication of plans for major changes or new stimulus. They promised to support domestic consumption, the growth of small businesses that generate jobs and more migration by

rural residents into expanding cities to find better-paid jobs. The new party general secretary, Xi Jinping, and other leaders are under pressure to overhaul an economic model based on exports and investment that delivered three decades of rapid growth but is running out of steam. Companies and political analysts are watching to see how far they are willing to go in remodeling the state-dominated economy. In the shorter term, they also need to keep a recovery from China's deepest economic downturn since the 2008 global crisis on track. Party leaders promised a "proactive fiscal policy" and "prudent

monetary policy" in a statement distributed by the official Xinhua News Agency at the end of a two-day annual planning meeting. That refers to willingness to boost government spending if needed and to keep credit easy so long as inflation stays low. The world's second-largest economy is limping out of the slump that pushed growth to a three-and-a-half-year low of 7.4 percent in the latest quarter but weak November trade data suggested the rebound might be faltering. The World Bank and other analysts say Beijing needs to curb dominant state companies and promote service industries and consumer spending to

keep incomes rising. They say without prompt action, growth might slow abruptly, leaving China stuck at middle-income levels. Possible reforms face potential opposition from state companies that might see their privileges diminished and have influential allies in the party. "If China does not change its strategy, it risks falling into the 'middle income trap'," Robert Zoellick, former World Bank president, said in a speech at a Beijing business conference last week. In a tacit acknowledgement of possible obstacles, Sunday's statement said change would require "greater political courage and wisdom." □



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# Mexico government says security policy failing

**E. CASTILLO  
M. WEISSENSTEIN**

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — The top national security official for Mexico's new president delivered a blistering critique of the country's U.S.-backed anti-crime policy on Monday, saying the strategy of capturing drug cartel leaders has fragmented their organizations and made them more violent and dangerous. Interior Secretary Miguel Angel Osorio Chong opened a meeting of the National Security Council with a grim recitation of crime statistics that surged under former President Felipe Calderon, telling the country's top military and civilian leaders that "financial resources dedicated to security have more than doubled but unfortunately crime has increased."

With the capture of dozens of drug capos, an achievement trumpeted by Calderon, "we have moved from a scheme of vertical lead-

ership to a horizontal one that has made them more violent and much more dangerous," Osorio told the heads of the military and the governors of Mexico's 31 states. "The rate of increase in homicides

of people have died and thousands of people have disappeared."

Osorio Chong and President Enrique Pena Nieto have promised to adjust Calderon's strategy in order to move away from a



**Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto, second from left, poses with a supporter as he is surrounded by media members in the northern border city of Tijuana, Mexico, Wednesday Dec. 12, 2012. Nieto's Interior Secretary delivered a blistering critique of the country's U.S.-backed anti-crime policy on Monday.**  
(AP Photo/Alex Cossio)

places us among the highest in the world," he said. "In recent years, because of the violence linked to organized crime, thousands

focus on killing and capturing cartel leaders and toward a focus on reducing crimes against ordinary citizens, most important ho-

micides, kidnappings and extortions. Nearly three weeks into their administration, they have offered few details on how they will actually do that. At Monday's meeting, they offered a few more specifics, but there was no indication of any grand readjustment in Mexico's security policy. The administration said it would divide Mexico into five regions for the purposes of security planning, allowing them to design tactics specific to problems that vary widely across Mexico. It did not, however, say what those five regions would be. Pena Nieto told the meeting that he would launch a new body of paramilitary po-

lice, based in large part of European forces known as gendarmerie, by enlisting 10,000 officers. He offered no time line, or indication of where those officers would be recruited from. The administration has previously estimated the eventual size of the gendarmerie at around 40,000 officers, a force that, if successful, would allow Mexico to reduce the number of soldiers and marines used to fight crime. Calderon's widespread deployment of the military for traditionally civilian police purposes has been criticized for provoking needless bloodshed and spawning thousands of complaints of human rights violations by troops. □

# Honduras political crisis takes a holiday

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)** — In Honduras, the political crisis is taking a holiday. A standoff between the president and congress

and the Supreme Court that brought the country to the brink last week will have to wait until Jan. 3 as offices closed the season. The



**Deposed former Honduran President Manuel Zelaya flashes a thumbs up during an interview with the press in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.**  
(AP Photo/Esteban Felix)

Supreme Court and attorney general's offices were closed Monday, and President Porfirio Lobo was silent after calling on Friday for a national dialogue to find a way out of the crisis.

In little more than a week, Lobo had accused businessmen and the Supreme Court of plotting against him. Then congress, with soldiers surrounding the building, voted last week to oust four justices who voted against Lobo's police reform. Many called the vote illegal. The attorney general's office promised to investigate. But for now, the country that endured a coup in 2009 plans to spend the holidays in heavenly peace. □

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Bermuda Premier Paula Cox. (Handout Photo)

## Bermuda ruling party seeks 4th term in election

ELIZABETH ROBERTS

Associated Press

HAMILTON, Bermuda (AP)

— Bermuda Premier Paula Cox faced a tough test Monday as her Progressive Labor Party sought a fourth term in power in parliamentary elections.

Cox's party has focused its campaign on its record navigating the wealthy British dependency through the global economic crisis. Candidates have touted the government's health care plans for seniors and free daycare for children while vowing to reduce a 10 percent unemployment rate.

But recent polls give an edge to the opposition One Bermuda Alliance, which says Cox's administration has mismanaged the economy, leading to increased joblessness for native islanders and rising crime. The party formed after the last elections in 2007 when the United Bermuda Party disintegrated after its third defeat at the polls. Opposition leader Craig Cannonier has vowed to create 2,000 new jobs over the next five years and spur lasting economic growth while reducing debt. It has been campaigning under the slogan "the change Bermuda needs."

"The OBA is confident we will win the trust of the people of Bermuda to form the next government," Cannonier said.

A recent poll conducted for The Royal Gazette newspaper showed the One Bermuda Alliance with a 13 percent lead over the Progressive Labor Party.

In the outgoing Parliament, Cox's party held 24 of 36 seats. □

## Venezuela:

# Politics possibly swayed by sympathy for Chavez

FABIOLA SANCHEZ

IAN JAMES

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Smarting after a bruising loss in state elections, Venezuela's opposition will now be forced to reassess its strategy and rebuild quickly to prepare for presidential elections that many expect could be called to replace ailing leftist President Hugo Chavez.

Chavez's increasingly bleak outlook after his fourth cancer-related surgery in Cuba appears to have galvanized his supporters, making Vice President Nicolas Maduro a tough candidate to beat in new elections, which under the constitution would be called within 30 days if the president dies, is incapacitated or steps down.

"It is a 30-day period that is going to be infused with all of the heightened emotion around Chavez's departure," said Cynthia Arson, an analyst at Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington. "The sympathy vote and the fervor of the Chavista base to come out and vote



Miranda State's Gov. Henrique Capriles, center, is congratulated by his supporters after being re-elected during an election in Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012. Capriles lost to Chavez in October's presidential vote, but his re-election this weekend will allow him to cement his position as Venezuela's dominant opposition leader.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

for the continuation of the revolution will be very high." Maduro would also get a boost from a socialist party that swept 20 of 23 state elections in Sunday's gubernatorial elections. One of the three anti-Chavez candidates who held off

the onslaught was Henrique Capriles, who lost to Chavez in October's presidential vote but is now widely considered the opposition's best hope against Maduro.

Capriles played down that possibility when asked if

he would run for president again.

"It isn't the time to be making those calculations," Capriles told reporters Sunday night. "There will be time."

He added that it was Chavez's government that raised the possible scenario of new elections, and he questioned the idea of a hand-picked successor inheriting power.

"Leaders aren't decreed. They're built," said Capriles, who seemed in campaign mode wearing a baseball cap and track suit emblazoned with the yellow, blue and red of the Venezuelan flag.

On a national level, Chavez's allies won 4.7 million votes in the state elections, much less than the 8.1 million who voted for Chavez in October but still more than 970,000 votes ahead of the opposition.

The 53 percent voter turnout on Sunday was considerably lower than the more than 80 percent who cast ballots in October's presidential vote, and the high abstention affected both camps. □

## Argentina:

# Process launched to break up media group

A. CALATRAVA

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — Argentina's government told the country's largest media conglomerate on Monday that it has

begun a process to break up the company and auction off its media licenses.

Grupo Clarin is one of the government's leading critics and has battled with President Cristina Fernan-

dez for years. Fernandez argues that it is a corporate monopoly and has funded a booming network of pro-government newspapers and stations to challenge Clarin's dominance.

Martin Sabbatella, the head of the government media regulation body, said in Monday that the government will make the conglomerate and other companies comply with the law, which bars any company from owning too many different media properties.

It comes after a lower court judge ruled Friday that a three-year-old law against media monopolies is constitutional.

"We notified them of the start of the transfer of licenses because the law is

constitutional," Sabbatella said at an impromptu press conference outside of Grupo Clarin's headquarters in Buenos Aires.

The process, which will end up with transfer of licenses, will last about 100 days. During this time, the media empire must take care of all its current holdings and keep all jobs, Sabbatella said. Grupo Clarin said in a emailed statement that the government's action is illegal and tramples on past rulings that favored the media group.

"It's totally inadmissible and illegal because it openly violates several legal rulings," Clarin said.

Clarin has said the judge's declaration lifting all injunctions in the case violates court procedures. □



Martin Sabbatella, center, head of the AFSCA, and Sergio Surano, right, director of the AFSCA legal department, listen as Grupo Clarin's lawyer Damian Cassino, left, speaks during a meeting, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Monday, Dec. 17, 2012.

(AP Photo/Daniel Dabove, Telam)





Cas di Glas 2012 comes to a close:

## Happy deejays leave their House of Glass at last!



**PALM BEACH** - Cas di Glas, the cozy prison of deejays Jen (Caliente), Suhaila (Power FM) and DJ 101 (Cool FM), who were locked up inside for the past five days, finally released its inhabitants as the fundraising frenzy came to a close on Sunday evening. Quite hungry, with great big pangs keeping them awake at night, the deejays were happy to have persevered, losing lots of weight in the process. Drinking only fruit- and vegetable juices, they had their ups and downs, but their spirit and comradeship kept them going. DJ 101 called his fellow-prisoners 'my sisters' after he came out of the trailer. Last Wednesday evening they stepped into the Cas di Glas at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall – five days, after having accomplished 24-7 broadcasting, later emotions were running high as they reunited with their children, family and friends. Well done and welcome back!

Minister of Sports Richard

Visser got the honor to release Jen, Su and DJ 101. He did so after emcee Ruben Garcia entertained the crowd, interviewed the men behind the participating radio stations Coof FM, Power FM and Caliente, organizer of Cas di Glas Peter Ballère, expert coordinator Esmeralda Ophelia-Schotman and Wit Gele Kruis' Gino Goeloe. Then he asked the mothers of Peter and Gino to step forward to symbolize the elderly of the island. Tears and flowers followed plus a beautiful song by soprano Manuela van Geenhoven before Minister Visser started patting his pockets, searching for the key of Cas di Glas. As Jen, Su and DJ 101 stepped out, applause and shouts rang out; the song 'We are the champions' was played. It was a great moment.

Cas di Glas 2012 was a fundraising for Wit Gele Kruis Aruba (WGK), in particular for the elderly on the island. Filled with activities, a beach tennis tournament, parties, a fashion



show with participation of the stores of the Palm Beach Plaza Mall and performances by a wide array of artists and groups, it was a greatly entertaining event, which many people enjoyed. George McCrae, Freek Bartels, Levi Silvanie, Junior Tecla, Datapanik, Biggie Boy, Carolina Dijkhuizen, Hot Ones Band, Jasper Taconis, Two of Us, Close Call, Den 2, Manuela van Geenhoven, Efraim, Youth Extreme and many more singers and groups performed on the awesome stage in the evenings, while the best in beach tennis showed off the sport to perfection on the single court, laid out in front of Taste of Belgium Restaurant.

Photos show the moment that Minister of Sports Richard Visser releases the three heroic, happy deejays from their house of glass, organizer Peter Ballière thanking everyone who has made the fundraising for WGK into a success and photos of the truly memorable final moments of Cas di Glas 2012. □





# A full dose of Holiday Cheer for Westin associates!



**PALM BEACH** – One of the most anticipated events of the year at the Westin is the annual Holiday Gala held for all associates and management of the resort. Not only does the resort deck the halls in holiday finery, the associates are decked out as well—saying so long to uniforms, and impressing with the glitz and glamour of gala dresses and suits. A delectable holiday feast and cocktails were enjoyed by all in the Grand Palm Beach Ballroom, while a live band kept everyone dancing into the wee hours of the morning. The holiday gala comes just in time—right on the cusp of the very busy

high season set to start this coming week. The Westin Resort & Casino, Aruba reports that they are expecting a full house for much of the upcoming high season, and associates are geared up for a successful 2013! □

## Palm Beach Plaza kicks off “The 12 Gifts Before Christmas!”



**NOORD** – (December 18, 2012): Palm Beach Plaza Mall anxiously announces their “The 12 Gifts Before Christmas” campaign. Here it is: With every Afl. 25 you spend at any store, restaurant or at the Caribbean Cinemas, you will receive a ticket to fill in and put in the tombola with a chance to win great prizes for the holidays! There will be a drawing beginning Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, thru Christmas Eve, and each night at 9pm on the Main Stage of the Palm Beach Plaza Mall, a winner will be announced! The only stipulation is you must claim your prize by the following day at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall between the hours of 9am to 12am. The winner will also be announced on the Palm Beach Plaza Facebook page. With more than Afl. 10,000 and 12 fabulous prizes, here's your chance to win prizes, prizes and more prizes!! Doors at Palm Beach Plaza Mall open 10am and with extended holiday shopping hour: stores close at 10 pm. □

**Beauty On The Beach**

*Emily Graham*

She is from New Jersey, USA. It is her first time in Aruba and she is on her honeymoon. What she loves the most of Aruba is sunshine! She is staying at the Occidental Grand.

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# Do Good Aruba brings smiles to the Clown Doctors



**Palm Beach** -- The partners of Do Good Aruba are dedicating three weeks in December to fundraising for the local Clown Doctors. Besides presenting the not-for-profit foundation with a corporate donation, the partners have made a collection box available to the public, where donations are accepted from all

those who visit their location at the Village Marketplace. The recently formed Do Good Aruba, headquartered in a warehouse at Eagle, re-purposes beautiful wine, liquor, beer, water, and soda bottles sourced from local businesses into elegant tumblers, drinking glasses and distinctive vas-

es. The merchandise is then sold in various locations on the island including the evening Village Marketplace on Palm Beach.

Wanting to do even more – Do Good Aruba designated December 20th as its “Clown Doctors” night! The company plans to involve all marketplace vendors in their fund raising efforts. The Clown Doctors will also be assisting the drive by walking around with a collection box from 8pm to 10pm, that night.

Rosie Walisever, a Do Good Aruba partner reports the project has been very well received and both local and visitors eagerly purchase the re-purposed glassware, which is perfectly suitable for commercial and private use. Some of Aruba's hotels and restaurants already feature Do Good Aruba glasses and tumblers with more coming on board every day.

Pictured here Rosie and her biggest client, Josh Posner, who owns a small Do Good Aruba outlet in the neighboring Arawak Gardens. The Clown Doctors Aruba

convert tears into laughter as they visit ailing children in the local hospital ward. The organization was founded on November 21, 2000, by Peter Ballière, a famed local restaurateur, who set up the Aruban Clown Doctors with assistance from its Belgian sister organization Cliniclowns Belgium. The clowns also visit old folks in nursing homes and

small children in the local orphanage, and are sustained by donations only. The public is invited to assist by visiting Do Good Aruba at the Village Marketplace, in order to make a donation or a purchase from Do Good Aruba. Red foam noses, the clowns' signature feature, will also be available for sale against a donation. □



## “Twelve Days of Poker” at the Casino at the Radisson!

**PALM BEACH** - The First Annual Year-End Championship, aptly titled “Twelve Days of Poker” is unfolding at the Casino at the Radisson with guaranteed cash prizes. The fun poker series started on December 15th and will end with the Championship Games on December 26th.

In honor of the tournament, the poker room at the Casino at the Radisson features an exciting game nightly, at 8:30pm, presenting Freeze Out, Satellite, and No Limit formats with different buy-ins, fees, re-buys and add-ons to make the Twelve Days of Poker very profitable and enjoyable!

Chantal Cha Young, who is the Sales and Marketing Coordinator at the Casino, reports the proceeds of the tournament are dedicated to Casa Cuna, a local orphanage, and will be presented just before the New Year to the institution in hopes to make the season brighter for the young residents of the home. Happy Holidays from your favorite Poker Room, at the Casino at the Radisson, who's whopping Bad Beat Jackpot now shows \$48,272. The casino's Bingo Progressive at \$25,600, is ripe for harvest as well as its Caribbean Stud Poker jackpot at \$60,303! □





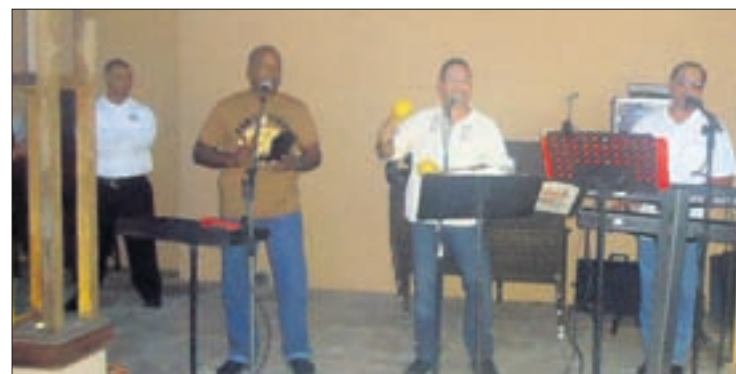
## With Live musical entertainment: The Shops At Alhambra Mall continues offering special discounts!

**PUNTA BRABO** - "The Shops At Alhambra Mall" invites the Aruba community and visitors for its next family night which will take place this coming Wednesday, December 19. The entire family can shop for the year-end season and take advantage of the many discounts in our stores. To keep the whole family satisfied, our food court features world famous fast-food restaurants like Sub-Way, Dunkin Donuts, Baskin-Robins, and Little Ceasars, each with their own specials. If you are a roast food fan you must visit The Market, offering half roast chicken and ribs at special prices. Enjoy the best coffee at Juan Valdez offering

2-for-1 granizado. Try the 3 course dinner at Ginger, consisting of an appetizer, a main dish and dessert for the ridiculous price of \$25. Fusion Piano Bar & Cigar has happy hour prices from 7-9pm with free snacks. Come check the latest collection of Daher & Co and receive 10% on your purchase. Aruba Aloe, R-Glass, Lazy Lizard, Mermaid y Divi Logo Store and Alelina have a free gift with purchase. J.M.R. also has a selection of items on discount. Relax on a massage chair at Intermezzo -The Salon from 6pm to 9pm. There's too much fun and excitement to mention, so come one come all to The Shops at Alhambra, this



coming Wednesday! And to bring the Christmas and New Year feeling and spirit, Casin Gil and the Cassinger Band will be performing



to delight all present from 6-10pm, and you can't miss kids entertainment with Ker-ekentechie Party Explosion! So don't forget to bring the

entire family this Wednesday December 19 at The Shops at Alhambra Mall for a joyful night with lots of surprises! □

## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"



**ORANJESTAD** - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to 12 noon and from 1 pm to



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## NBA Capsules



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant (24) shoots over Philadelphia 76ers' Jason Richardson (23) and Nick Young (1) during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

### Bryant helps Lakers top 76ers 111-98

The Associated Press

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Kobe Bryant scored 34 points, Metta World Peace added 19 points and a career-high 16 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers won consecutive games for the first time in nearly a month with a 111-98 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Sunday.

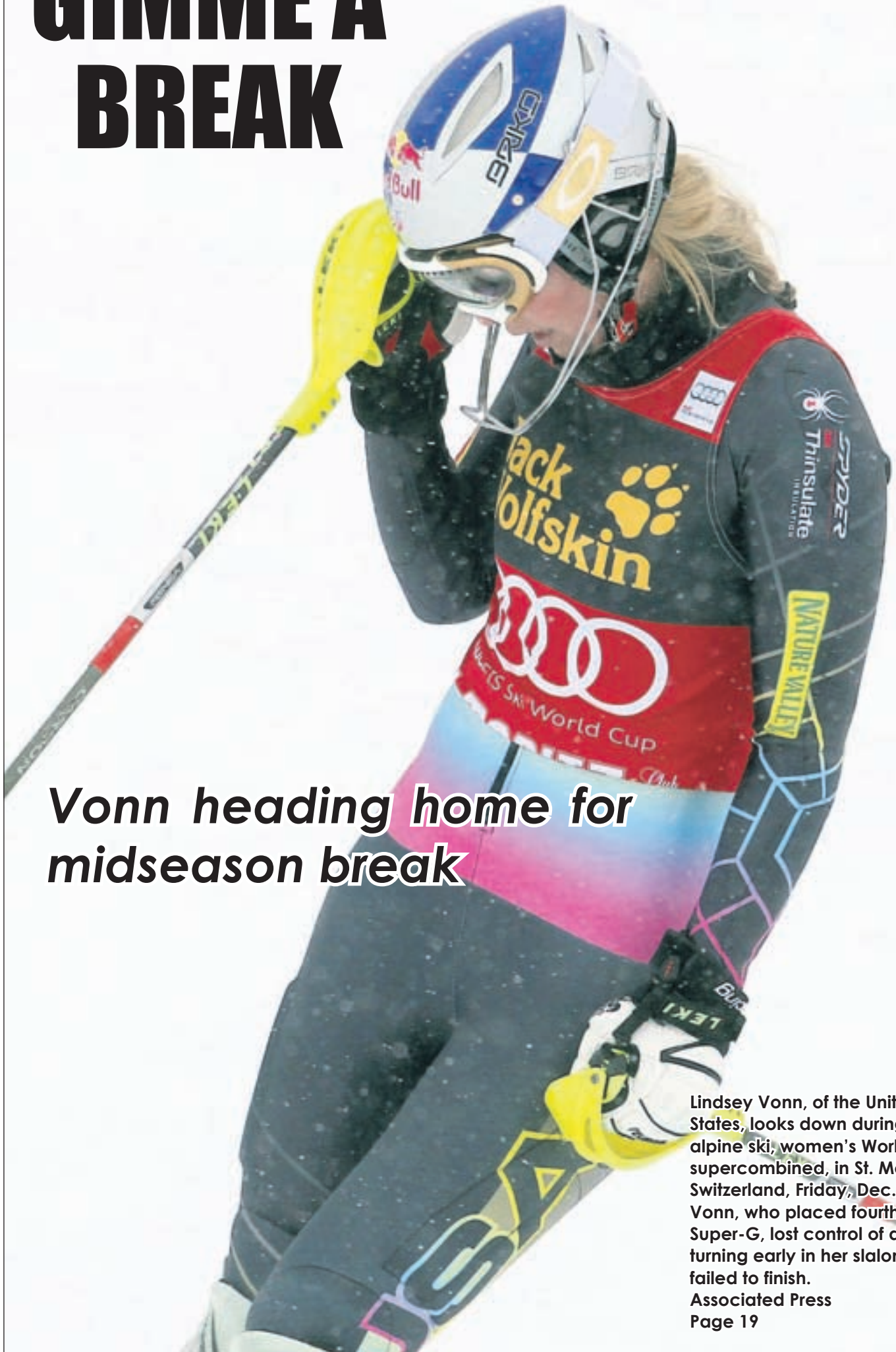
Dwight Howard had 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers, who led 60-50 at halftime. Darius Morris had a career-high 15 points, all in the first half, and Chris Duhon scored 14.

The Lakers (11-14), who beat Washington 102-96 on Friday night, won two in a row for the first time since a three-game streak from Nov. 16-20.

Even without injured stars Steve Nash and Pau Gasol, the Lakers hardly resembled the team which entered the night four games below .500.

Continued on page 20

# GIMME A BREAK



## Vonn heading home for midseason break

Lindsey Vonn, of the United States, looks down during an alpine ski, women's World Cup supercombined, in St. Moritz, Switzerland, Friday, Dec. 7, 2012. Vonn, who placed fourth in the Super-G, lost control of a ski while turning early in her slalom run and failed to finish.

Associated Press

Page 19



# Goal-line technology unused in 1st tournament

**TOKYO (AP)** — After eight games at the Club World Cup, few conclusions were reached about the effectiveness of goal-line technology.

The tournament was the first to feature goal-line technology. The Magnetic-field-based system GoalRef was used at Yokohama Stadium, while Toyota Stadium was equipped with the camera-based Hawk-Eye system. There were no close calls, however.

Both systems relay information to the referee via a vibrating wristwatch in a split second. They passed all pre-game tests with no problems but were never called upon to determine a goal at Japan.

The closest the system came to being used was early in the final when Corinthians goalkeeper Cassio dove to stop a shot by Chelsea's Gary Cahill in the 11th minute. Cassio



The goal-line monitoring device is demonstrated before the media at Yokohama Stadium in Yokohama, near Tokyo, Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012.

Associated Press

trapped the ball under his legs about a foot in front of the goal, but play went on as it was clear that the ball

never crossed the line. FIFA president Sepp Blatter said goal-line technology is being well-received by referees.

"The referees are happy to have this help for them because they know now

if there is a conflicting situation they will get the accuracy to say if it was a goal or not," Blatter said before Sunday's final. Any data that FIFA was able to gather from the Club World Cup will be used as it looks to make a decision by the end of March as to which technology it will use for the six venues at the 2013 Confederations Cup in Brazil. FIFA decided to introduce both systems after they won "unanimous" support from the International Football Association Board panel. Blatter was initially opposed to the idea of using goal-line technology, but changed his stance two years ago when he saw England denied a clear goal by midfielder Frank Lampard against Germany at the 2010 World Cup. Blatter said FIFA should re-open the debate, although he insisted it must involve only goal-line decisions. □

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# Still ill, Vonn heading home for midseason break

ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

ALTA BADIA, Italy (AP) —

Lindsey Vonn is taking an unexpected break in the middle of the World Cup ski season, saying she has yet to fully recover from an intestinal illness that landed her in a hospital last month. After a weekend of disappointing results at a World Cup meet in France, the four-time overall champion said in a statement on her Facebook page Monday that she needs to get her full strength back before returning to the slopes after New Year's. Vonn stayed two nights in a hospital in Vail, Colorado in November after suffering from severe intestinal pain.

"After talking with my family and consulting with my coaches and trainers, I have decided to take a break from the World Cup circuit," Vonn said. "Since my intestinal infection last month, I have been struggling with my energy and strength. I believe that some time off the mountain will help me regain the physical strength that I require to compete at the level that I demand from myself." Earlier Monday, U.S. women's head coach Alex Hoedlmoser told The Associated Press on Monday that the timing of Vonn's return "depends on how she's feeling and exactly what her condition is." "She's going home for now," Hoedlmoser said. "We'll have to see when she's ready. It's a little bit unknown but the plan is to get her back strong. ... With the way the schedule has been and all the travel she just hasn't had a chance to get back to strength. We want her back at full strength." Hoedlmoser said Vonn will miss this week's



Lindsey Vonn, of the United States, speeds down the course on her way to clock the fifth fastest time during the first run of an alpine ski, women's World Cup giant slalom, in St. Moritz, Switzerland, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012. Associated Press

slalom and giant slalom races in Are, Sweden. The following races on the schedule are also technical races in Semmering, Austria, Dec. 28-29.

"It's possible she'll skip Semmering, so that would mean her next races would be in January," Hoedlmoser said. "It depends how she's feeling and exactly what her condition is."

Vonn won three consecutive speed races at Lake Louise, Alberta, earlier this season, and also took a super-G win in St. Moritz, Switzerland, on Dec. 8 for her 57th career World Cup win — moving her within five of record-holder Annemarie Moser-Proell on the all-time list. But she fared poorly in both of her races this past

weekend in France.

On Friday in Val d'Isere, she had an uncharacteristic fall in downhill — the event she's Olympic champion in. Then on Sunday in Courchevel, she fell again in the opening run of a giant slalom. Immediately after Sunday's race, Vonn posted a note on Facebook: "Hit a rock on my left ski in the GS and skied off course... struggling to find the energy I usually have...going to think hard over the next few days about my plan for the coming weeks and how to get strong again. Trying to stay positive. Now I'm packing up the Audi and heading to the airport." After Semmering, there is a special city event in Munich on New

Year's Day and a slalom in Zagreb, Croatia, on Jan. 4, followed by speed races Jan. 12-13 in St. Anton, Austria — on one of Vonn's favorite courses.

Depending on how many races Vonn misses, her chances of defending the overall title may be affected. Vonn is currently only fourth in the standings. Tina Maze of Slovenia leads with 799 points, Maria Hoefl-Riesch of Germany is next with 468, Kathrin Zettel of Austria has 440 and Vonn has 414. However, Vonn might not miss any speed races, her specialty, so Hoedlmoser wasn't counting her out. "In January there are plenty of races left for her," he said. "The goal is to get her back up

in shape."

In last week's issue of People magazine, Vonn revealed that she struggled with depression in 2008, and was prescribed an antidepressant to treat the condition. She added that she's happier these days, though, saying, "All the parts of my life are finally in sync. I accept who I am, and I'm moving forward." Vonn separated from her husband of four years, Thomas, last year. In Monday's statement, Vonn said "I want to be emphatic that this has nothing to do with my recent interview with People Magazine." "I had completed that interview weeks before I was in the hospital with the intestinal infection," she said. □



# ATP opposes U.S. Open switch to Monday men's final

**LONDON (AP)** — The ATP opposes the U.S. Open's switch to a Monday final in 2013 and is not satisfied with the prize money increase for the tournament.

The U.S. Tennis Association announced last Friday that the women's final would be moved to Sunday and the men's championship match to Monday next year.

While the move builds in a rest day ahead of each final for the first time, the ATP said Monday it was against the change and would continue to fight it.

"The ATP and its players have made it clear to the U.S. Open that we do not support a Monday final," the governing body for men's tennis said in a statement. "We strongly believe the U.S. Open should keep



**Britain's Andy Murray poses with the trophy after beating Serbia's Novak Djokovic, left, in the championship match at the 2012 US Open tennis tournament, Monday, Sept. 10, 2012, in New York.**  
Associated Press

a similar schedule to the other Grand Slams, with the men's semifinals completed by Friday and the final on Sunday.

"It is unfortunate the U.S.

Open response did not reflect our views on this issue and the ATP and its players will continue to pursue this matter in its discussions with the USTA."

Rain forced the USTA to postpone the men's final from its scheduled Sunday slot to Monday each of the past five years.

Some top male players complained that the U.S. Open was the sport's only major tournament that put their semifinals and final on consecutive days. The men's semifinals in New York will stay on Saturday under the new plan.

A decision about 2014 and beyond probably will come after the 2013 tournament. Wimbledon, the French Open and Australian Open follow another pattern: women's semifinals Thursday, men's semifinals Friday, women's final Saturday, men's final Sunday.

The USTA also announced Friday that total prize money in 2013 will jump \$4 mil-

lion to a record \$29.5 million.

The increase is the largest in tournament history, doubling the roughly \$2 million hike from 2011 to 2012.

The ATP said the increase was "appreciated" but did not go far enough.

"Over the last nine months the ATP and its players have asked that the U.S. Open fully recognize the fundamental role of the players in driving U.S. Open revenues, which are the largest in our sport," the statement said.

"The ATP therefore remains committed to continuing discussions on this issue, with the objective of ensuring that the players' share of the revenues at the U.S. Open truly reflects the value that they generate for the event." □

## NBA Roundup

Continued from page 17

Nick Young paced the reeling Sixers (12-12) with 30 points, while Spencer Hawes and Evan Turner added 16 apiece. Thaddeus Young had 14 points for Philadelphia, which dropped a third straight game for the first time this season.

**RAPTORS 103, ROCKETS 96**  
**TORONTO (AP)** — Jose Calderon had 18 points, 14 assists and 10 rebounds, and Toronto won consecutive games for the first time in eight months with a victory over Houston.

Alan Anderson had 24 points and DeMar DeRozan added 19 for the Raptors (6-19), who hadn't won consecutive games since April 13 and 15 of last season.

James Harden scored 28 points for the Rockets and Marcus Morris added 19.

Former Raptors sharpshooter Carlos Delfino drained two baskets in the final 1:04 to pull the Rockets within two points, but Calderon sunk two free throws to put Toronto back up by four.

The teams traded free throws for most of the final minute.

**NUGGETS 122, KINGS 97**

**SACRAMENTO, California (AP)** — Reserve JaVale McGee scored 19 points, Danilo Gallinari had 18 and Denver built a big lead in the first half to cruise past Sacramento.

The Nuggets scored 16 straight points to snap a first-quarter tie and take control. Denver has won seven in a row against the Kings. Sacramento has lost four straight overall.

Isaiah Thomas had 20 points and DeMarcus Cousins had 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Kings.

Sacramento's Aaron Brooks committed a hard foul against Andre Miller late in the first quarter and a mild altercation ensued involving Cousins and Kenneth Faried of the Nuggets. All four players were given technical fouls.

**TRAIL BLAZERS 95, HORNETS 94**

**PORTLAND, Oregon (AP)** — Rookie Damian Lillard hit a 3-pointer with 0.3 seconds left as Portland handed New Orleans its sixth straight loss.

After trailing by as many as 16, Austin Rivers hit a 3-pointer for the Hornets to tie it at 92 with 50.9 seconds left to set up Lillard's winner. Lance Thomas made a layup for the Hornets as time ran out for the final margin. J.J. Hickson had a season-



**Los Angeles Lakers' Metta World Peace, center, pulls in a rebound over Philadelphia 76ers' Dorell Wright, left, and Thaddeus Young (21) during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012, in Philadelphia.**

Associated Press

high 24 points and added 16 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who have won

three straight. Hickson has five straight double-doubles and 13 overall this season.

Ryan Anderson had 26 points, including seven 3-pointers, for New Orleans.



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# 49ers clinch playoff berth, 41-34 over Patriots

By **BARRY WILNER**

**AP Pro Football Writer**

**FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)**

-- Jim Harbaugh might have learned more about his San Francisco 49ers during 20 minutes of sleepwalking than at any other time in his two years as their coach. His 49ers turned a nearly historic collapse into a stunning victory and a playoff berth. They withstood a 28-point comeback by the New England Patriots to win 41-34 on Sunday night in the rain.

"Our team has now hung in in a lot of big-time pressure games," Harbaugh said. "They've overcome adversity. They've shown they can do that."

Michael Crabtree took a short pass from Colin Kaepernick and sped around cornerback Kyle Arrington for a 38-yard touchdown with 6:25 to go, then David Akers made a 28-yard field goal to clinch it.

"We can win a shootout," Crabtree said. "Whatever it takes, that's our motto. ... We feel like we can do anything, sky's the limit."

The 49ers (10-3-1) own at least a wild-card spot and play at Seattle next week with a chance to win the NFC West. A loss would bring the division race down to the final weekend. Kaepernick threw for four touchdowns, two to Crabtree, who had 107 yards receiving. The defense rattled Tom Brady at times, but also yielded 443 yards passing in a sloppy contest between two of the league's more precise teams.

AFC East champion New England (10-4), which had won seven in a row, trailed 31-3 in the third quarter and lost for the first time at home in December in 21 games. The Patriots also had won

21 in a row in the second half of the schedule before San Francisco somehow regrouped late in a game it seemingly had clinched long before.

"I used to live next to a train station in Chicago," Harbaugh said. "And it's like the more you hear the train, the less you hear it. I feel that way with our team in terms of pressure in big games. The more you feel it, the less you feel it." San Francisco forced four turnovers, matching the number of giveaways New England had at home all season.

But then the Niners began collapsing, and back came Brady and the Patriots on a 6-yard TD run by Danny Woodhead and a 1-yard dive by Brady. A 5-yard pass to Aaron Hernandez and Woodhead's 1-yard run with 6:43 remaining tied it.

And just like that, San Francisco went in front again. Rookie LaMichael James broke free for a 62-yard kickoff return. On the next snap - the third time the Niners would have a one-play TD drive - Crabtree took a pass on the left side, spun and headed into the end zone.

"We faced adversity," James said. "Nobody flinched."

New England turned over the ball on downs and Akers made his kick. Stephen Gostkowski added a 41-yarder for the Patriots with 38 seconds remaining, but they couldn't recover the onside kick.

San Francisco led 17-3 at the half. And they looked safe after Frank Gore picked up Kaepernick's third fumble and scored on a 9-yard run, followed by Crabtree's 27-yard score

in a pinpoint pass from the second-year quarterback. The defense set up both of San Francisco's TDs in the third.

Dashon Goldson returned Steven Ridley's fumble 66 yards to the New England 3 before Gore found the end zone. Defensive end Aldon Smith, known for his sacks, grabbed a pass out of Hernandez's hands for his first career interception. After he was tackled, Smith ran directly to the sideline and sat down on the 49ers' bench.

He was back up on his feet cheering the next play, when Crabtree broke free to make it 31-3.

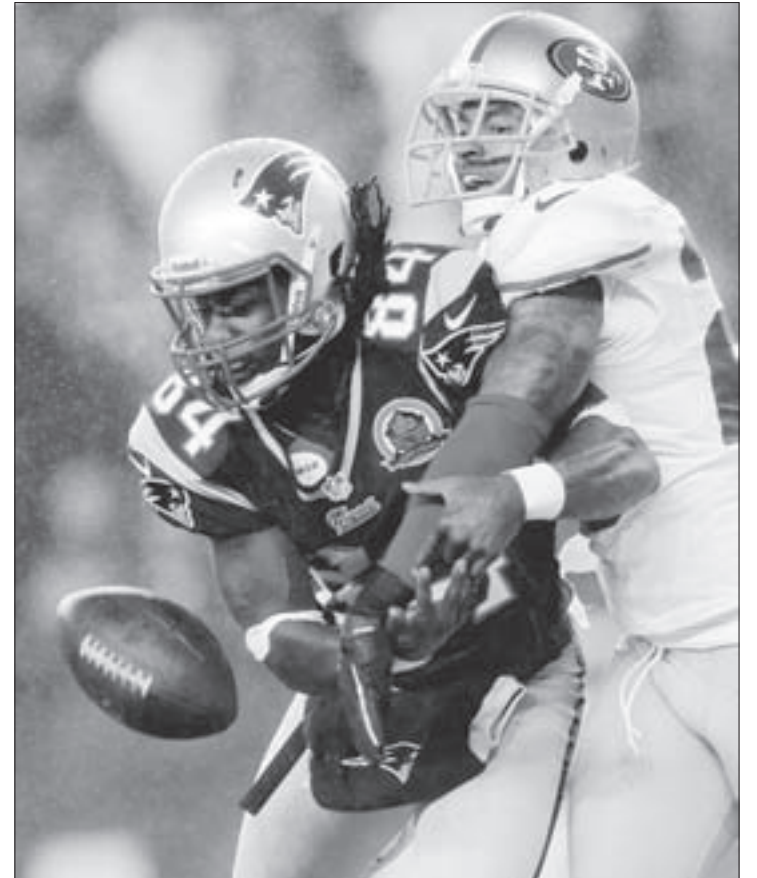
"We just spotted them 28 points," Brady said. "We fought hard, but you can't play poorly against a good team and expect to win. We can't miss plays that we have opportunities with." Still, no one can relax against the Patriots.

Unlike a week ago, when the Patriots routed Houston, they fell behind quickly in the rain and ran only 10 snaps on their opening three series. San Francisco's fearsome pass rush was sharp then, and Brady was hit on the arm twice while trying to pass.

Even worse, his long throw on their third possession for Wes Welker was picked off by Carlos Rogers, who then slalomed his way on the wet turf toward the New England end zone. Only Brady stood in his way at the 5, and Rogers fell trying to elude him.

It was a key stop because Delanie Walker fumbled two plays later.

Earlier, Kaepernick accounted for 60 yards through the air on the 49ers' first drive. Randy Moss showed the kind of



San Francisco 49ers cornerback Tarell Brown, right, breaks up a pass in the end zone intended for New England Patriots wide receiver Deion Branch (84) in the second quarter of an NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012.

Associated Press

elusiveness that made him a record-setter in New England from 2007 until he was

traded early in the 2010 by getting behind the secondary for a 24-yard TD. □

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## Personal Health:

# When anxiety interrupts an otherwise healthy child's life

**JANE E. BRODY**  
© 2012 New York Times

Is it any wonder so many children are anxious? As the recent horror in Connecticut demonstrates, children today may be confronted with unthinkable realities, events that their parents and grandparents could never have conceived.

But much of what children fear is not rooted in reality: strange noises, dark rooms, monsters under the bed. Parents often are called upon to help ease these anxieties, and the job is not easier just because they spring from the imagination.

One of the most common childhood fears involves separation from parents. Separation anxiety is a normal developmental stage that typically starts around 9 months and ends at about age 3. However, for Daniel Smith, author of "Monkey Mind: A Memoir of Anxiety," the trauma of parental separation exploded at age 4 and continued through age 13.

"I would become hysterical, nauseated, unable to enjoy anything whenever I was separated from my parents," he recalled in an interview. "I had a pit in my stomach and icicles in my chest."

Although I had wanted to go to camp, when my parents dropped me off, the counselor had to drag me out of the car by my ankles."

Of course, some fears are functional, like those that keep children from taking such risks as running into traffic or touching a hot stove. But when anxiety interferes with a child's ability to lead a normal life — go to school, sleep at a friend's house, learn to swim or ride a bike, cross a street — it morphs into a disorder that often warrants treatment. According to Golda S. Ginsburg, an expert on childhood anxiety at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, anxiety disorders affect 1 in 5 U.S. children.

"Even though we are doing

a better job of identifying anxiety disorders in children and have effective methods to treat them, they are still underdiagnosed and undertreated," Ginsburg said.

### ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

Ginsburg explained that

"Some children are born with a certain temperament that increases their risk of developing an anxiety disorder. They may be behaviorally inhibited — shy, reticent about approaching novel conditions." But only half of those children end up with an anxiety



**A Delhi Municipal employee fumigates the ground where supporters of Indian anti-corruption activist Anna Hazare, seen in a poster at center, gather to protest, in New Delhi, India.**

(AP Photo/Manish Swarup)

childhood anxiety disorders typically result from an interaction between biology and environment. For some, like Smith, there is a strong hereditary component.

His mother, Marilyn, who became a psychotherapist, suffered acutely from anxiety her entire life, although she ultimately learned how to keep it under wraps most of the time. Even without a hereditary influence, Ginsburg said,

disorder, she added, while some children who are not inhibited do develop these conditions.

As with adults who suffer from anxiety disorders, the most successful, scientifically validated treatment for overly anxious children is cognitive behavioral therapy (commonly called CBT), sometimes in combination with an antidepressant drug like Zoloft (sertraline). In effect, CBT reprograms the brain, using words and

behavior to replace irrational or dysfunctional thoughts and actions with rational ones.

In one multicenter study of 488 children aged 7-17 suffering from separation anxiety, generalized anxiety or social phobia, CBT and Zoloft used individually significantly reduced the severity of anxiety, but combining the two worked even better.

### OFFERING RELIEF

Tamar E. Chansky, a psychotherapist who treats anxious children and adults and wrote a practical guide, "Freeing Your Child From Anxiety," said the goal was not to put down children's fears but to help them see that their fears are unwarranted and that they can overcome them. She has created a "master plan" for helping children gain control over their anxiety:

— Empathize with your child. Resist the temptation to tell the child there is nothing to worry about, and instead acknowledge the child's concerns and the effect they have.

— Describe the problem as coming from "the worry brain" that jumps to conclusions and cannot be trusted. Give worry a name,

like "brain bug." This takes the focus from the child's particular fear and makes anxiety itself the problem.

— Rewire and resist. Ask your child what she is really worried about and what she thinks might happen. Then ask her to check whether these thoughts really make sense. Help her find inner strength, the voice that tells worry it is not the boss.

— Teach relaxation techniques to temper the biological alarm to fight or flee whenever fear takes over.

— Help the child focus on what he wants to do and what he would do if worry were not in charge.

— Finally, reinforce your child's efforts, praising her for getting through a tough situation.

For those in need of professional help, between 10 and 20 sessions of CBT can produce "meaningful clinical improvement in 50-75 percent of children," Ginsburg said. "Anxiety is a chronic illness that can emerge in times of environmental crises or change," she said. "Prevention is important. I want parents to be proactive rather than reactive. A minor adjustment can prevent re-emerging anxiety from interfering with a child's life." □

## Malaria progress falters globally

**MARIA CHENG**  
AP Medical Writer

**LONDON (AP)** — The fight against malaria is slowing down amid a dramatic

drop in efforts to reverse the epidemic, even as health officials insist they will try to meet their idealistic target of virtually eliminating

deaths from the parasitic illness by the end of 2015.

Malaria causes symptoms including fever, chills, and vomiting and can kill if not treated early. It mainly strikes children under 5, mostly in Africa.

In 2010, about 145 million bed nets were given out across Africa to protect people against the mosquitoes that spread the killer disease.

Last year, that fell to about 66 million.

The number of homes in Africa sprayed with pesticides has also stalled, as have attempts to treat pregnant women, one of the high-risk groups.

While the malaria death rate has fallen by a quarter since 2000, officials say further improvements are in jeopardy.

"We must act with urgency and determination to keep this tremendous progress from slipping out of our grasp," Dr. Margaret Chan, WHO's director-general, wrote in a report released Monday.

WHO blamed falling donations and said the \$2.3 billion invested in malaria programs in 2011 was less than half of what was needed. The agency estimated there were about 219 million malaria cases and 660,000 deaths in 2010. □



**A Delhi Municipal employee fumigates the ground where supporters of Indian anti-corruption activist Anna Hazare, seen in a poster at center, gather to protest, in New Delhi, India.**

(AP Photo/Manish Swarup)





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## Census to offer Internet option in gov't surveys

By HOPE YEN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP) — For the first time, the** Census Bureau is giving U.S. households a chance to respond to government surveys over the Internet, part of a bid to save costs and boost sagging response rates in a digital age.

The new online option will supplement the traditional census mail-out operation. It is a major shift for the agency, which has relied almost exclusively on paper forms since 1970 but is now moving toward a more Internet-based system after spending a record \$13 billion on the 2010 census.

"The online response option is part of an ongoing digital transformation at the Census Bureau," said Thomas Mesenbourg, the Census Bureau's acting director. "The Census Bureau is transforming to make responding to surveys more convenient, conducting surveys more cost-effective and America's statistics more accessible on digital and mobile devices."

Beginning this week, more than 3.5 million U.S. households that are randomly selected each year to participate in the American Community Survey will be sent letters asking them to respond online. The ACS questionnaire, formerly known as the census "long form," asks households for wide-ranging details from education and income to disabilities, language use and commute times.

The Census Bureau also will add a new series of questions on computer and Internet usage to the survey, with data gathered becoming available begin-

ning in 2014.

If households don't respond within two weeks, the Census Bureau will send out copies of paper surveys and follow up with interviews by phone or in person.

The Census Bureau said it is hoping to tap into the changing information habits of Americans, especially younger adults, who are increasingly turning to computers, tablets and smartphones for their communications. Over the last two censuses, the government has struggled with decreasing response rates, due to a combination of perceived inconvenience and concerns about revealing personal information in surveys. Perhaps equally important, the Census Bureau believes higher response rates could eventually reduce costs, mainly by decreasing the need to mail out voluminous forms or dispatch hundreds of thousands of survey-takers each month to individual homes. At least initially, officials estimate the switch could shave \$3 million off the price of conducting the American Community Survey, which costs taxpayers \$215 million annually.

The American Community Survey is used to distribute more than \$400 billion in federal funds for hospitals, roads and schools.

The ACS surveys being distributed this week mark the first time the government will offer an Internet option on such a wide scale to U.S. households, according to Frank Vitrano, the Census Bureau's associate director for the 2020 census. He said it currently offers the option in smaller



surveys for more niche audiences, such as businesses. An Internet option also previously was provided on a limited basis in 2000, but only a small fraction of households participated. By 2010, census officials had backed away from an Internet-based survey, citing concerns of hacking and other security breaches. Since then, countries such as Canada and South Korea have moved to make the Internet a regular part of their census operations. In more recent U.S. tests, about 50 percent of households responded when allowed to respond via the Internet, census officials said. The Census Bureau also has taken additional steps to boost digital security, requiring users to enter a randomly generated user ID to enter the survey site. The Census Bureau for years has been urged by members of Congress to move to an Internet-based system, partly to help cut

costs. But concerns remain as it is studied for use in the 2020 census, which counts the entire U.S. population rather than a representative sample. The once-a-decade count has traditionally missed hard-to-track groups such as minorities, the homeless and the poor, who also may be less likely to have access to computers.

Recent government tests have shown that U.S. residents who are more likely to respond to surveys online are younger, Asian, non-black, or 'other' race, with higher education. Those living in larger households as well as those who speak a language other than English at home also were more likely to fill out Internet forms.

Reaching hard-to-count groups has been a major factor behind ballooning costs to the census, which sustains its biggest costs when it has to send survey-takers to households.

"An Internet option cannot come at the expense of reaching hard-to-count communities.

Because of disparities in Internet access, this is no silver bullet to increasing response rates and could make racial and language minorities, as well as rural residents, even harder to count than they are now," said Wade Henderson, president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of various civil rights groups.

"The bureau cannot use this as an excuse to scale back the field offices and programs that ensure everyone gets counted, regardless of race, language, or zip code," he said.

Census officials say planning for the 2020 census is under way, and that money saved by implementing an Internet option could possibly be used to pay for additional efforts to track hard-to-count groups. □



# Stocks move higher as budget talks progress

**STEVE ROTHWELL**  
**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Stocks rose on Wall Street Monday as investors were encouraged by signs of progress in budget talks in Washington. Just two weeks remain before tax increases and government spending cuts take effect if no deal is reached. On the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, stock traders paused for a minute of silence at 9:15 a.m. EST to remember the 20 children and seven adults killed Friday in a gunman's rampage through a Connecticut elementary school. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 100.38 points, or 0.8 percent, to 13,235.39, its biggest gain this month.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed 16.78 points to 1,430.36 and the Nasdaq composite index rose 39.27 points to 3,010.60.

Marc Chaikin, CEO of the Philadelphia-based market research firm Chaikin Analytics, said investors became more hopeful for a

resolution in the budget talks after House Speaker John Boehner made an offer to increase tax rates on high-income Americans.

"The fiscal cliff is obviously foremost on everyone's mind," Chaikin said.

Banks were among the best-performing stocks. Citigroup gained \$1.55, 4.1 percent, to \$39.15 after Raymond James raised its target price on the stock to \$52 from \$44. In a note to clients, the brokerage reaffirmed its "Strong Buy" rating, citing the "improving fundamental outlook." Bank of America also gained 42 cents, or 4 percent, to \$11.

Investors are currently favoring financial stocks over technology stocks, said

Ben Schwarz, chief market strategist at Lightspeed Financial.

"The banks are ripping today," Schwarz said. "People are looking for stability and the tech sector hasn't given them any."

Financial companies make up the best performing industry group in the S&P 500 this year, according to FactSet data.

The group, which includes banks such as Wells Fargo & Co. and insurers such as Travelers, has gained 25 percent this year.

Apple rose \$9.04, or 1.8 percent, to \$518.83 after the company said it sold more than 2 million iPhone 5s in China in their first three days of availability, setting a record for that market. □



Traders Patrick McKeon, left, and Joel Lucchese work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks rose modestly Monday, Dec. 17, 2012, on Wall Street.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

## Elliott offers to buy Compuware for \$2.35B

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Compuware shares jumped 17 percent Monday, after one of its largest shareholders offered to buy the software development company for about \$2.35 billion in a bid to turn it around.

New York-based investment firm Elliott Management, which holds an 8 percent stake in Compuware Corp., wants to acquire it for \$11 per share. The offer represents a 15 percent premium over its Friday closing stock price.

"Compuware is a long-established company that we have followed closely for several years," Elliott said in its letter to Compuware's board. "We believe in the quality of Compuware's assets — however, its execution, profitability and growth have meaningfully underperformed."

In its letter, Elliott touted its experience in the software industry and familiarity with Compuware, saying that it's "uniquely situated" to get

the best value for the company's shareholders. It said it's confident that it can find financing for such a deal and wants to meet with the company's board as soon as possible.

Other technology-related holdings of Elliott include BMC Software, Brocade Communications and Emulex Corp., according to FactSet.

Later on Monday, Compuware released a statement saying that it received the offer and would review it with its financial and legal advisers.

The offer comes about a month after Peter Karmanos Jr. announced plans to step down as executive chairman of Compuware next year. He stepped down as CEO in 2011. Karmanos founded the company in 1973.

In addition, Compuware said Friday that it that it filed for a possible initial public offering of its Covisint Corp. unit and could conduct the IPO in three to six months.

The company said the IPO would give Covisint more flexibility to pursue strategic opportunities and increase its visibility.

Covisint specializes in secure, industry specific communication and collaboration, according to its website.

Compuware has struggled amid sluggish global economic conditions and the European economic crisis.

In October, it said its fiscal second-quarter profit plunged 53 percent and issued a weak forecast for the full year. But despite significant volatility, the company's shares have risen about 15 percent since the beginning of the year.

In afternoon trading, Compuware shares rose \$1.23, or 13 percent, to \$10.76, after peaking at \$11.16 earlier in the day, passing their previous 52-week high of \$10.25 and marking their highest price since May 2011. □

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## Japan's Nikkei outperforms as new party wins

PAN PYLAS

AP Business Writer

**LONDON (AP)** — Japanese shares outperformed other markets on Monday amid hopes that the new government will enact fresh stimulus measures to boost the world's third-largest economy.

Signs that U.S. politicians are inching toward a budget deal helped Wall Street open stronger than earlier predicted and shored up European markets after a bad morning.

The standout index was Japan's Nikkei 225, which closed up 0.9 percent at 9,828.88, its highest level since April, after the country's Liberal Democratic Party swept back into power at weekend elections with a landslide victory.

Party chief Shinzo Abe, who is in line to become prime minister, favors increased spending on public works and setting a 3 percent economic growth target. He's also expected to lobby for stronger action by the central bank to get Japan out of its deflationary trap.

"Japanese equities rallied today on the back of a resounding victory by Shinzo Abe's LDP, giving them a mandate to boost economic growth through more aggressive fiscal and monetary easing," said Rebecca O'Keefe, head of investment at Interactive Investor.

Expectations of further stimulus in Japan, despite the country's sky-high debt levels and doubts over the effectiveness of looser economic policy, further weighed on the yen. The dollar was 0.4 percent higher at \$83.72 yen.

The yen's recent weakness is a potential boon to the country's powerhouse exporters. Automaker Nissan Motor Co. rose 1.8 percent, Sony Corp. climbed 1.4 percent and Panasonic Corp jumped 2.3 percent. Elsewhere, markets remained largely beholden to developments over the U.S. budget. □

## Hulu revenue up to \$695M; 3 million subscribers

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — On-line video service Hulu says revenue this year will grow about 65 percent to \$695 million.

Hulu says it has more than doubled the number of subscribers who pay \$8 a month for Hulu Plus. The figure now exceeds 3 million. Hulu Plus gives users a broader selection of back



episodes and access over mobile devices, game consoles and Internet-connected TVs. Both free and paid versions of Hulu come with ads.

In a blog post, Hulu CEO Jason Kilar said Monday that the service has spent \$500 million on content this year, boosting the number of titles it offers by 40 percent. □

## Sprint raises offer to buy Clearwire for \$2.2B

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Sprint, the third-largest U.S. cellphone company, said Monday that it will buy out the portion of wireless network operator Clearwire that it doesn't already own after raising its offer price to \$2.2 billion.

The deal would give Sprint control of a flailing affiliate, one it depends upon to provide high-speed "Sprint 4G" data services on some of its phones. It would increase Sprint's access to the airwaves, meaning it could boost data speeds in coming years. However, cell towers using Clearwire spectrum have poor

range, meaning Sprint may struggle to provide broad coverage.

Sprint Nextel Corp. said it



will pay \$2.97 per share for the nearly 50 percent stake in Clearwire stock it doesn't already own. A board committee that excluded Sprint appointees approved the

offer. The board hadn't approved Sprint's earlier offer of \$2.90 per share, or a total of \$2.1 billion, which had been made Thursday.

The agreement is a disappointment for Clearwire shareholders, who were hoping that the company would hold out for an even better offer. Some of them could try to stop the deal. The stock fell 47 cents, or 14 percent, to \$2.90 in morning trading Monday.

Sprint's \$2.97-per-share offer for Clearwire is more than twice the stock's closing price of \$1.30 on Oct. 10, just before the Sprint-Softbank deal was confirmed.

The Clearwire deal is con-

tingent on the Softbank deal going through. A majority of Clearwire's minority shareholders also need to approve it. Of those, cable companies Comcast Corp. and Bright House Networks, as well as chipmaker Intel Corp. have agreed to vote in favor. They control 13 percent of the shares.

Because Clearwire is closely tied to Sprint, it would be a poor fit for another cellphone company, and there have been no reports of other suitors.

Analyst Christopher King at Stifel Nicolaus said it's likely other shareholders will oppose the deal, arguing that Clearwire is worth much more. □

## AIG may raise up to \$6.52B from AIA sale

**NEW YORK (AP)** — AIG may raise as much as \$6.52 billion from the sale of its remaining stake in Asian life insurer AIA Group Ltd.

The insurance company, whose remaining AIA stake was approximately 14 percent, said Monday that the approximately 1.65 billion shares will be priced between 29.65 Hong Kong dollars (\$3.83) to 30.65 Hong Kong dollars (\$3.95). The price range is a 3 percent to 6 percent discount to AIA Group's Friday closing price of 31.65 Hong Kong dollars on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

AIG said the exact price will be announced before the Hong Kong Stock Exchange opens Tuesday. The company plans to use net proceeds from the sale for general corporate purposes.

Shares of AIG rose \$1.06, or

3.1 percent, to \$35 in afternoon trading.

In September AIG raised about \$2 billion selling part of its stake in AIA Group. AIG sold \$6 billion in AIA stock in March and after the September stock sale it was restricted from selling any of its remaining shares of AIA until Dec. 10.



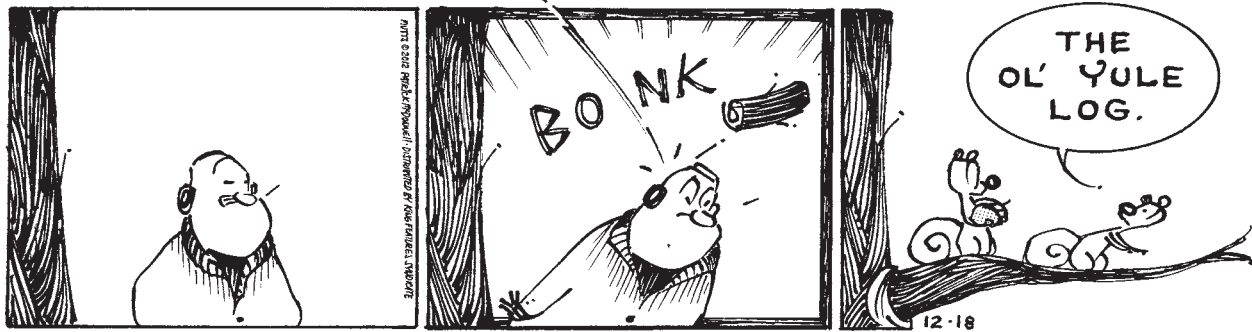
American International Group Inc., which is based in New York, nearly collapsed in 2008.

It received \$182 billion from the U.S. government — the biggest of the Wall Street bailout packages — after suffering massive losses from investments in derivatives.

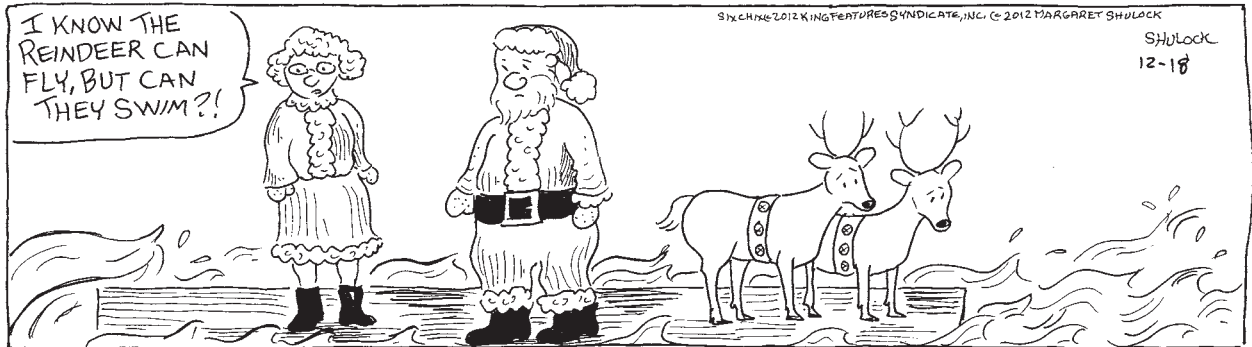
In 2010, the company spun off AIA in Hong Kong's biggest ever initial public offering to raise \$20 billion, which was used to pay bailout debt. Last week the Treasury Department announced that it sold all of its remaining shares of AIG. The Treasury received \$32.50 per share for its 234.2 million remaining shares, which represented a 16 percent ownership stake in AIG. With this sale, the Treasury said that the government has received \$22.7 billion more than the \$182 billion bailout it provided to support AIG during the height of the financial crisis. Since the financial meltdown, AIG has undergone a significant restructuring which has cut the size of the company nearly in half aimed at focusing on its core insurance operations. □



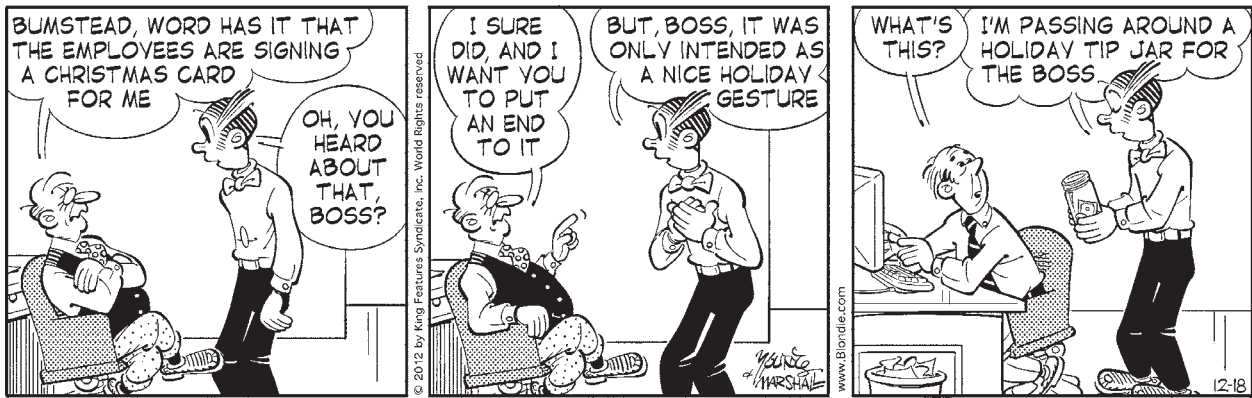
Mutts



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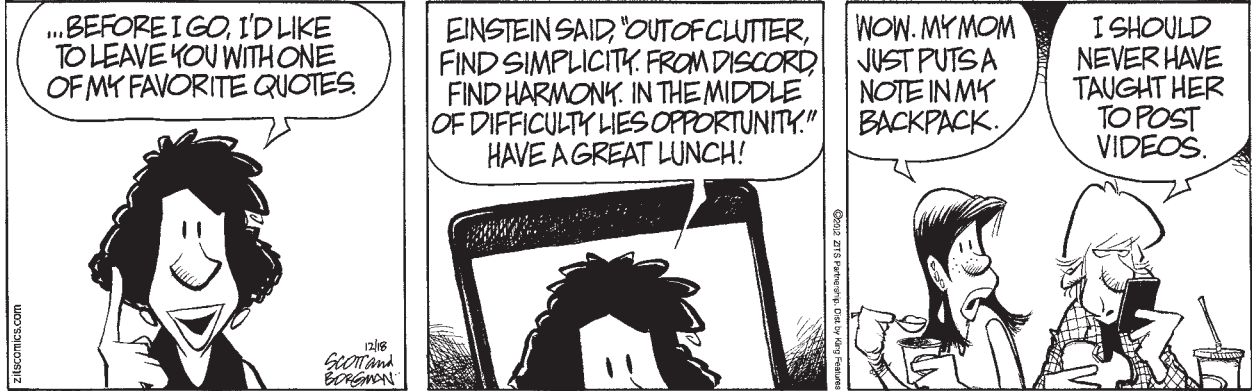
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

8			4	5				
		6			9	7		
	2						8	
5				2			9	
6			9	4	8			5
	1			3				4
	4						1	
		1	7			2		
				6	4			8

Difficulty Level ★★

12/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

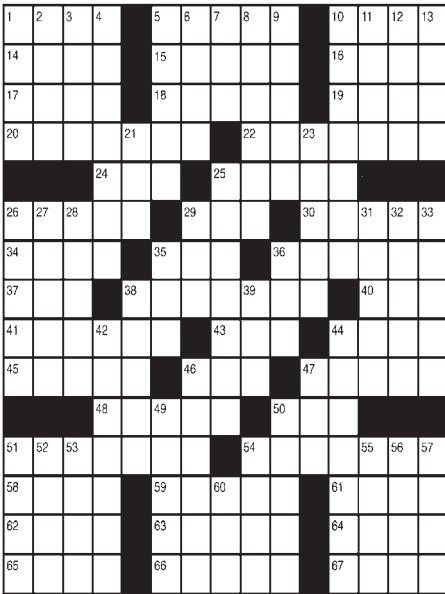
6	9	7	8	3	2	5	1	4
1	4	8	5	7	9	3	2	6
3	2	5	1	6	4	7	8	9
5	3	6	7	2	1	9	4	8
9	7	4	3	8	6	1	5	2
8	1	2	4	9	5	6	7	3
4	8	3	9	1	7	2	6	5
7	6	9	2	5	8	4	3	1
2	5	1	6	4	3	8	9	7

ACROSS

- 1 "Take \_", farewell words
- 5 Rub enough to make sore
- 10 Piece of paper
- 14 \_ house; Realtor's event
- 15 Stash; cache
- 16 Bridal veil trim
- 17 Veal or venison
- 18 Plant pest
- 19 To \_; unanimously
- 20 Cost
- 22 Disease
- 24 Male sheep
- 25 Dairy product
- 26 Embankment
- 29 Crafty
- 30 Sandy shore
- 34 Gung-ho
- 35 Name for thirteen popes
- 36 Part of the eye
- 37 Tavern
- 38 Worldly; not religious
- 40 Small amount
- 41 Trimming, as a lawn
- 43 Give a nickname to
- 44 Ricky Ricardo's portrayer
- 45 Sierra \_; African nation
- 46 Reed or Harrison
- 47 Bowler's button
- 48 Fast
- 50 Floor pad
- 51 Canceled
- 54 Irrigated
- 58 Region
- 59 \_ Allan Poe
- 61 "West \_ Story"
- 62 Humane
- 63 Actor Kevin
- 64 Muscle quality
- 65 Finishes
- 66 Transmits
- 67 Celebrity

DOWN

- 1 \_ back; return
- 2 Peak
- 3 Gather crops
- 4 Went in
- 5 Deep gorge
- 6 Stay optimistic
- 7 Ooh and \_; express delight
- 8 Franciscan monastery
- 9 Singer Fisher
- 10 Jail
- 11 Like a poor excuse
- 12 " \_ See Clearly Now"
- 13 \_ up; confined
- 21 No, in Scotland
- 23 Toil
- 25 Became blurry
- 26 Can wrapper
- 27 Steer clear of
- 28 Zodiac sign
- 29 1/60 of a min.
- 31 Mountains of South America
- 32 Discontinue
- 33 \_-forming; addictive
- 35 Lower limb
- 36 Taxi
- 38 Weaselly fellow



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/18/12

Monday's Puzzle Solved

MISS	SHEAF	CAPE	
ACHE	HOARD	ANON	
TOUT	INTERESTED		
AND	LEES	DIETS	
	DAILY	FIN	
SPEWED	RECOIL		
AIREO	GLOAT	MET	
RAID	BUILT	SPAR	
INN	LATTE	SWEDE	
OGRESS	SPARSE		
	AVE	SLABS	
SCARE	SCAN	OCT	
LACERATION	ANEW		
ARTS	BIGOT	GALA	
TEST	CENTS	ELLS	

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12/18/12

- 39 Bar soap brand
- 42 Successful advances
- 44 Hates
- 46 "As I was going to St. Ives..." for example
- 47 Traitor
- 49 Quick looks
- 50 Female horses
- 51 Gather leaves
- 52 " \_ go brag!"
- 53 Peddle
- 54 Magician's rod
- 55 Street uprising
- 56 Author Ferber
- 57 Bambi, for one
- 60 \_ and tonic



# Stuff yourself a merry little stocking

Helen Anders

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**AUSTIN, Texas** -- There's a science to stocking-stuffing, and it starts in the toe. You want a beautiful, rounded toe upon which to build a sock o' surprises. People like to see their stockings full. An empty, flabby stocking toe is a sad, sad, thing.

My mother always put an orange or apple in the toe, but you can go with anything round or roundish -- perhaps a tennis ball if the stocking recipient (henceforth referred to as the stockee) plays tennis. Or maybe one of those Bath Bombs skin-softening products from Lush. In fact, Lush is a great provider of stocking stuffers, including mini massage bars, tiny tubs of moisturizer, little bottles of scented bath wash and wee jars of lip scrub.

You can also put a sock in it. The toe of the stocking, I mean. Everybody loves and needs socks, given their penchant for divorcing their mates while they're in the clothes dryer. A rolled-up pair fills the toe nicely.

Then it's time to pile in the miscellaneous stuffings, usually a blend of the practical and the silly. The only rules are that the stuffer has to fit in the stocking -- no pianos -- and it can't have sharp edges. People reach into stockings, and you don't want them getting all maimed.

Some of the best stocking stuffers are practical items with a dash of whimsy: a penguin-shaped flash drive, for example, available at any office supply store.

For women's stockings, you can't beat the aforementioned Lush, along with fellow cosmetic/bath stores Sephora and Ulta. Sephora has little samplers of six glittery lip glosses for \$3, for example. At Ulta, you'll find a little kit of four Smash-box product samples, all expensive in their full-size form, for \$19.

Write this stuff down, because Mama tends to fill all the stockings, but Mama



needs her stocking filled, too.

"Don't forget the parents," says Mollie Kirby, who is one of those parents. "I don't want to do my own stocking."

Kirby knows stocking stuffers because she's a sales floor leader at Austin's Container Store. The place is stocking stuffer heaven, with racks and racks of little items for men, women, little kids and teenagers: silicone coasters that grab onto the bottom of your drink, handbag organizers, small flashlights, USB hubs, tiny little hand vacuums for computers, cloths for cleaning iPads, travel doggie bowls, waterproof electronics cases and little soapstone cubes that warm and cool your beverages -- just to name a few.

"We're the original storage and organization store, and part of being organized is getting stocking stuffers," Kirby says when asked why

her store invests so heavily in stockingware. So true. Disorganized people realize late on Christmas Eve that they haven't filled the stockings and have to make a run to the grocery store or pharmacy to fill the stocking with whatever they can find. That's how people wind up with stockings filled with huge bags of M&Ms and bottles of aspirin.

No, better to visit the Container Store. There I found, for my husband, who's always losing his reading glasses, a Dokson Nosy, a squat little man with a slit in his head to hold eyeglasses.

A small green plastic box shaped like a Lego will please the 5-year-old Lego fan and will be a good home for his itty-bitty Transformers.

A daughter who likes to camp will love the original lightweight but sturdy Spork. This isn't that thing

you get with fast food that's essentially a curved fork and tends to break. This one's made in Sweden with a fork on one end and a spoon on the other. And, at \$2.99, it's a cheap stuffer.

We've come to the top of the stocking, and there, you need candy sticking out. When I was a kid, it was marshmallow Santas -- I loved those -- and a candy cane. Big Top Candy in Austin has some lovely canes and also some vintage stocking-topper options such as Atkinson's Peanut Butter Bars, a favorite of my husband, and a gigantic 1-pound Sugar Daddy. □

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# Twin NASA spacecraft deliberately crash into moon

**ALICIA CHANG**  
AP Science Writer

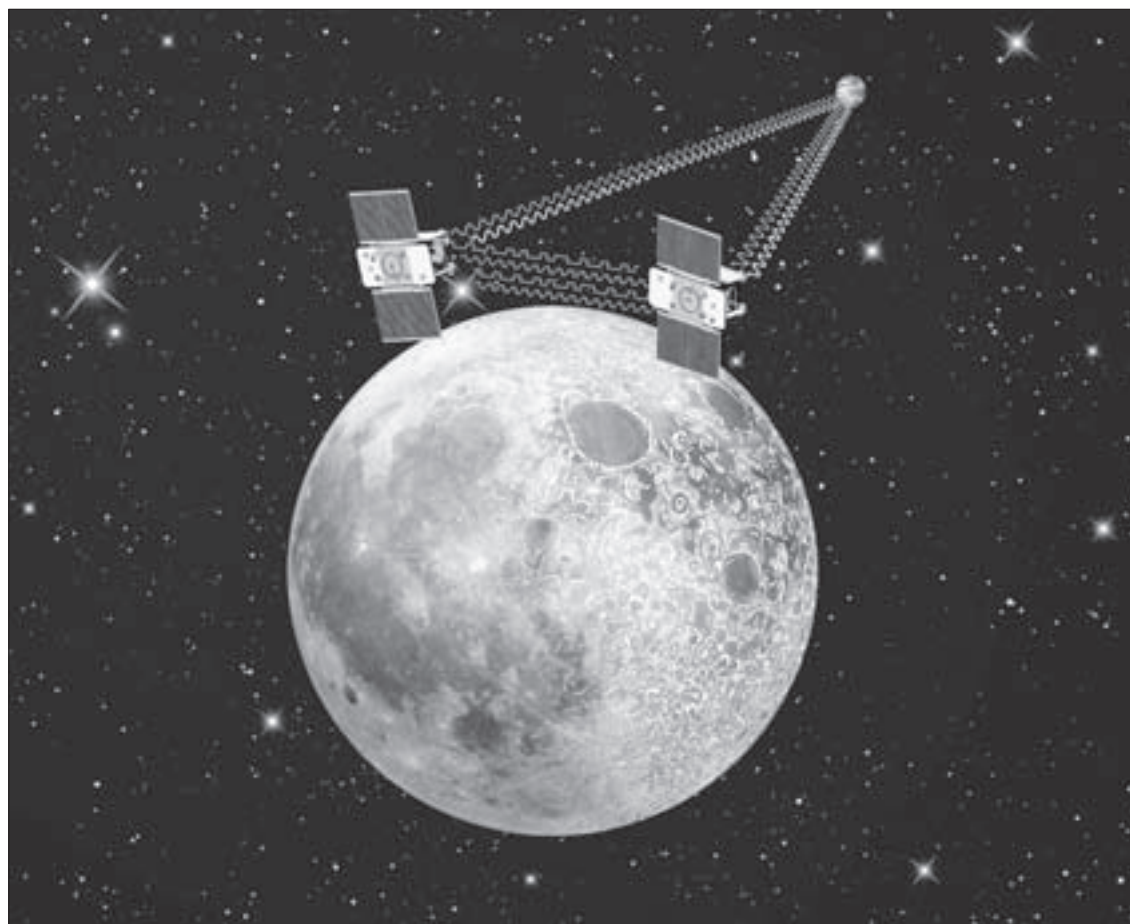
**PASADENA, California (AP)**

— A pair of NASA spacecraft tumbled out of orbit around the moon and crashed back-to-back into the surface on Monday, ending a mission that peered into the lunar interior.

Engineers commanded the twin spacecraft, Ebb and Flow, to fire their engines and burn their remaining fuel. Ebb plunged first, slamming into a mountain near the moon's north pole. Its twin, Flow, followed about a half minute later and aimed for the same target. By design, the final resting place was far away from the Apollo landing sites and other historical spots on the moon.

After the double impacts, mission chief scientist Maria Zuber of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said the spot has been named after team member Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, who died earlier this year.

"It's really cool to know that when you look up now at the moon there's this little corner of the moon that's named after Sally," said Ride's sister, Rev. Bear Ride, adding that she hoped schoolchildren will be inspired.



This undated artist file rendering provided by NASA on Dec. 21, 2011, shows the twin Grail spacecraft mapping the lunar gravity field. Launched from Cape Canaveral on Sept. 10, 2011, the spacecraft began collecting data in March, 2012.

**Associated Press**

Since the crash site was in darkness, the final act was not visible from Earth. The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter circling the moon will pass over the mountain and attempt to photograph the skid marks left by the washing machine sized-spacecraft as they hit the surface at 3,800 mph. After rocketing off the

launch pad in September 2011, Ebb and Flow took a roundabout journey to the moon, arriving over the New Year's holiday on a gravity-mapping mission. More than 100 missions have been flung to Earth's nearest neighbor since the dawn of the Space Age including NASA's six Apollo moon landings that put 12 astronauts on the surface. The demise of Ebb and

Flow comes on the same month as the 40th launch anniversary of Apollo 17, the last manned mission to the moon. Ebb and Flow focused exclusively on measuring the moon's lumpy gravity field in a bid to learn more about its interior and early history. After flying in formation for months, they produced the most detailed gravity maps of any body in the solar system.

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# Panettiere overcomes stage fright with 'Nashville'

CAITLIN R. KING  
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

— While Hayden Panettiere is pretending to be a country music singer on TV, she's learning how to be one in real life. The 23-year-old actress plays ambitious country star Juliette Barnes on the hit ABC show "Nashville." Her character has dealt with the demands of a record label executive, written songs and tracked vocals in a recording studio. "The show, I feel like, is an amazing second step for me because I love music and I've always had such terrible stage fright," said Panettiere, who recently earned a Golden Globe nomination for best performance by a television actress in a supporting role.

"This has been kind of the in between because I get to go out there during scenes with a crowd full of people and pretend like I'm performing onstage, and I'm actually performing a live show," she continued. "It's one thing when you put yourself out there (as a solo artist), it's another thing when you're playing a character. ... Beyonce has her alter ego (Sasha

Fierce), and people create these alter egos because it seems like a little bit more protection when you put yourself out there for all to see." Her confidence as a singer is growing, as is her credibility. She sings all of her own songs in the show, some of which are featured on the "Nashville" soundtrack, released last week. Big Machine Records put out her song "Telescope" as the show's first official single, and it's a Top 40 hit on the Billboard country songs chart. The former "Heroes" actress has dabbled in music before, performing tracks for various Disney films and releasing the pop single "Wake Up Call" in 2008, which failed to chart. A full album was never released. "Nashville" boasts Grammy-winning musician and producer T Bone Burnett as its executive music producer and an accomplished cast, including co-star Connie Britton, who also earned a Golden Globes nomination for best performance by an actress in a television series drama.

"It's so amazing, because we had such high hopes and sometimes you feel like things are too good to

be true, and I felt like the show was everything that I dreamt of as an actor and as a musician," Panettiere said just hours after she found out about the nominations. Panettiere says hearing her song on the radio for the first time is a moment she'll always remember. She had just hopped into her car on a crisp, fall day with her best friend. She turned the key, and her name popped up on the dashboard.

"I just bugged out," she said. "I couldn't believe it. I was trying to take pictures at the same time. But it's surreal. ... There are no words to describe how special and exciting that moment is. □



In this Friday, July 27, 2012 file photo, Hayden Panettiere attends the "Nashville" panel at the Disney ABC TCA Day 2 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. Associated Press

## Channing Tatum, Jenna Dewan-Tatum expecting

NEW YORK (AP) — The Sexiest Man Alive will soon be a sexy dad.

Actor Channing Tatum and his wife Jenna Dewan-Tatum are expecting their first child in 2013, their reps confirm.

The news was first reported by People.com, which named Tatum the Sexiest Man Alive in November.

The couple, who recently co-starred in the film "10 Years," met on the 2006 dance film "Step Up," and wed in 2009.

Besides a baby, the new year will be a busy year for the parents-to-be. Tatum has at least four movies in the works while Dewan-

Tatum appears on this season of "American Horror Story: Asylum" and has a TV movie called "She Made Them Do It" premiering Dec. 29 on Lifetime. □



In this Sept. 16, 2012 file photo, Channing Tatum and Jenna Dewan-Tatum attend a brunch event for the new film "10 Years" in New York. Associated Press

## Tom Cruise returning to Pittsburgh for premiere

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Tom Cruise is heading to Pittsburgh for a scaled-down screening of his new action movie, "Jack Reacher," after it was postponed over the weekend because of the deadly school shooting in Connecticut.

Friday's shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, left 20 children and six adults dead at the school, along with the gunman and his mother.

Paramount Pictures then postponed the Saturday U.S. premiere of the movie, which was filmed in Pittsburgh and is set to open Dec. 21.

The studio says Cruise will return to Pittsburgh on Wednesday to screen "Jack Reacher" for fans. It says there won't be a red carpet but Cruise will introduce the film.

The showing will be for previously confirmed guests. □



US actor Tom Cruise poses for the photographers during a 'Jack Reacher' film photocall at the Callao Movie Theater, in Madrid, Spain, Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012. Associated Press

## Zoey Deschanel, rocker husband finalize divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge has finalized actress Zoey Deschanel's divorce from her rocker husband of roughly three years.

Court records show a judge finalized the actress' divorce from Death Cab for Cutie frontman Ben Gibbard on Wednesday in Los Angeles.

Gibbard and Deschanel, who stars in Fox's "New Girl," were married in September 2009. They had no children together.

The actress filed for divorce in December 2011 after the couple separated two months earlier.

The judgment does not provide financial details of the breakup, although it states that the former couple's marriage cannot be repaired by counseling or mediation.

Deschanel was nominated last week for a Golden Globe award for her work on "New Girl." □



In this Jan. 16, 2011 file photo, actress Zoey Deschanel, left, and her husband, singer Ben Gibbard attend the 2011 HBO Golden Globe Party in Beverly Hills, Calif. Associated Press



# Barbara Streisand, Seth Rogen bond on 'The Guilt Trip'

**SANDY COHEN**

**AP Entertainment Writer**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Barbara Streisand would really rather relax than star in a movie.

"I like not to be bothered," she said during a recent interview. "I like to look at the ocean and swim in my pool and play with my dog and see my son."

But for the director and writer of "The Guilt Trip," in theaters Wednesday, Streisand was the only choice to play Joyce Brewster, a loving but meddling mom who sees the bonding opportunity of a lifetime when her only son, Andy (Seth Rogen), invites her on a cross-country road trip. Streisand declined the role for a year. Then her real-life son, Jason Gould, joined the chorus of voices urging her to do it, so the legendary 70-year-old entertainer made a few "requests" of producers.

Could they promise weekends off and no call times before 8:30 a.m.? Would they consider renting a warehouse closer to Streisand's Malibu home rather



**In this Dec. 11, 2012, photo, Seth Rogen, left, and Barbara Streisand, cast members in the film "The Guilt Trip," pose together for a portrait at The Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. Associated Press**

than shooting on a proper sound stage?

"I get a little carsick sometimes so I didn't want to schlep to Paramount, which is an hour and a half to two hours that time of the morning," Streisand said. "So if

you rent a warehouse and built the sets — it's ridiculous what I was asking."

Yet the filmmakers obliged her every demand, and in the end, Streisand and Rogen shared one of the most pleasant, fun and cre-

atively comfortable acting experiences they've ever had. The two approach work similarly, they said, and they really became like mother and son on set. "Aw, you were proud of your mommy?" Streisand asked Rogen sweetly, laying her head on his shoulder playfully after he complimented her performance in the film.

Rogen, 30, said Streisand reminds him of his own mother.

"I think there's a whole generation of mothers who kind of model themselves off of Barbra. She's the patient zero of Jewish mothers," he said. "A lot of people see the movie from all races and nationalities and they're like, 'Oh man, she reminds me so much of my mother,' and I think it's because, it's probably because your mother is a fan of hers and acts like her."

Rogen and Streisand also bonded as filmmakers. As multi-hyphenates who work on both sides of the camera, they brought a broad understanding of the mov-

iemaking process and resulting openness to their roles. For example, during one scene where Streisand's character tries to eat a four-pound steak to win a free meal, the actress in her didn't want to do it, but the director in her knew she had to.

"Because, as a filmmaker, I don't care what the actress has to go through," she said.

"Some actors are like that, Rogen said. "Ones who've made movies are like that. You can see that even though they don't want to be doing that, they know that they have to because it's the best thing for the movie."

That director's sense of story and filmmaking also informed their improv scenes. Streisand said ad-libbing comes naturally to her — "not that I've had to use it before in something like 'Prince of Tides.'"

Though their characters may seem Jewish (like the actors that play them), both said they tried to make them more generic. □



**In this Oct. 2, 2012 file photo, Jennifer Lopez arrives for the presentation of Chanel's ready-to-wear Spring-Summer 2013 collection in Paris.**

**Associated Press**

**Nekesa Mumbi Moody**  
**AP Entertainment Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Jennifer Lopez says she doesn't look forward to getting gifts at Christmas — she looks forward to giving them.

"I love going and shop-

## Lopez plays Santa for charity; talks about Rivera

ping for Christmas presents for everybody and making gifts for people and seeing their faces light up and surprising them; that's where I get my joy," the entertainer said last week.

It's also why Lopez launched her "J. Lo's Christmas Gift" drive, asking fans to donate to her three favorite charities (the Boys & Girls Club, the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and the American Red Cross). In exchange, she'll give someone two tickets to the last show of her "Dance Again" world tour in Puerto Rico on Saturday; she'll also pay airfare and hotel costs.

"It's just that kind of doing something nice for somebody, and they do something nice back and kind of paying it forward," she said in a phone interview Friday from Australia, where she was performing. She's promoting the con-

test, which ends Monday, on Twitter with the hashtag JLOCHRISTMASGIFT. She got the idea to use social media to encourage her fans to give back since becoming more involved in platforms like Twitter and Facebook and seeing how much response she's received when she's had contests.

"I thought, 'What if every person I tweeted and asked for a follow donated a dollar?' I have 13½ million followers (on Twitter)," she said. "We can collect a lot of money for these charities that I work with that are literally close to my heart."

Part of the reason Lopez chose the Red Cross is because of its relief work in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, which devastated parts of New York City, where Lopez is from. She hasn't been back to New York since the October storm but her ex-husband,

Marc Anthony, was affected.

"My babies (4-year-old twins Max and Emme) had to go there and visit their dad shortly after, and it was like, kind of a scary proposition to send them because I didn't know what it was going to be like," she said. "He was saying how his house had a tree fall in his front yard, and he couldn't stay there and there was no electricity. Just knowing how so many people were affected by it and when you really hear the stats of it ... there's not enough you can do."

Lopez will be heading home for the holidays; Lopez said she feels blessed to have been able to stage her first world tour, particularly spending much of it with her family: "It's just been an amazing year." Lopez said the tour was a "life-changing experience," but acknowledged

it could also be grueling at times, with the constant travel.

For that reason, she said she identified with Jenni Rivera, the Latin music superstar who was killed Dec. 8 in a plane crash. Rivera was traveling after a concert in Monterrey, Mexico.

"I didn't know her personally but I knew of her. For me, just being on tour right now, you live the same type of life. You know what I mean? It's traveling, it's doing shows," Lopez said. "She considered herself a businesswoman as well, besides an artist, and she had kids and I'm sure she was rushing home to get home to her kids at that time so she took the flight at 3 in the morning. So you go like, wow, it's just like a wake-up call for everybody. It's tragic. She was so young, so young, and she had five kids. It just wasn't her time, it feels like." □



## Show Me The Money



**JOE NOCERA**

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The annual IMG Intercollegiate Athletics Forum, held last week in Midtown Manhattan, is the kind of meeting where football games are routinely described as “product,” television networks are “distribution channels,” and rooting for State U. is an example of “brand loyalty.” The university presidents, conference commissioners, athletic directors and corporate marketers who attend spend very little time mouthing the usual pieties about how the “student-athlete” comes first. Rather, they gather each year to talk bluntly about making money.

Did you know, for instance, that college football was the top-rated program on four of the five Saturday nights that it aired in 2012? That consumers spent more than \$4.5 billion on college sports merchandise in 2011? That more than 20 million college sports fans earn \$100,000 a year? That is the sort of thing you learn at the conference (which IMG, a giant sports marketing firm, co-runs with Sports Business Journal.)

Take, for instance, the new college football playoff system that will begin in 2014. You might have thought that the big issue is that only four schools will get to participate – so there is still going to be a lot of dissension of who gets in and who doesn’t.

But no, that wasn’t it at all. The college sports executives were perfectly sanguine about the likelihood of controversy; it would help drive ratings. The real issue is how to divvy up the \$470 million that ESPN has agreed to pay annually for the right to televise the playoffs. “The smaller schools all want a bigger piece of the pie,” said Wood Selig, the athletic director at Old Dominion University. Good luck with that, Wood.

Universities switching conferences – so-called conference realignment – was a constant topic of conversation. With conference realignment, there isn’t even a pretense that it is about anything but the money. Just a few weeks ago, the University of Maryland and Rutgers joined the Big Ten, which now has 14 schools. Though neither school is what you would call a football power, they give the Big Ten, which has its own cable network, entree into the New York

and Washington media markets. So what if it means increased travel demands on the athletes? Meanwhile, Maryland has its own issues: Its athletic department is broke. Having failed miserably at ramping up its football program, it had to cut seven sports and was facing a large deficit. It was in such a hurry to move to the Big Ten – and get hold of its bigger pot of television money – that it didn’t even tell the other schools in its old conference, the ACC, that it was bolting. When someone asked how Maryland could afford the ACC’s \$50 million exit fee, the answer came back: The exit fee was probably unenforceable. Who knew conferences had exit fees?

Like businessmen everywhere, the college sports executives bemoaned the high cost of doing business these days. Multimillion-dollar salaries for coaches had gotten out of hand, it was generally conceded. Even worse were the buyouts being paid to fired coaches. Auburn had recently fired its football staff – and faced the prospect of paying out \$11 million in contractually obligated buyouts to its former coaches. And the University of Tennessee had paid \$5 million to get rid of its football coach, Derek Dooley, after three losing seasons.

Indeed, Tennessee had already paid out a \$6 million buyout to another former football coach, Phillip Fulmer – as well as to a former baseball coach and an ex-basketball coach. The buyouts at Tennessee for coaches totaled at least \$9 million. When the athletic director, Mike Hamilton, finally resigned in June 2011 – with the athletic department on track to lose \$4 million that fiscal year – he got, naturally, a big buyout. You will perhaps not be surprised to learn that the athletic department has been forced to suspend an annual \$6 million payment it made to support the academic side of the university. This at a school where the state has cut its funding by 21 percent since 2008.

At the IMG conference, the participants made it sound as if they were helpless in the face of these outlandish salaries and buyouts. If they didn’t sign coaches to four- or five-year deals, they wouldn’t be able to attract recruits, they moaned. If they didn’t give their coach a raise when a high-profile job opened up, they risked losing the coach. Several panelists suggested that the only sure way to cut back on coaches’ compensation would be to amend the nation’s antitrust laws to allow universities to band together and cap coaches’ pay.

Well, yes, I suppose that’s one way of doing it. Another way, of course, would be for college presidents to show some backbone and say no.

Fat chance. □



## A Tale Of Two Women



**MAUREEN DOWD**

© 2012 New York Times

**WASHINGTON** – Rarely have there been two such intriguing women at the heart of such a dramatic true story.

The first, a smart, prickly, compulsive CIA operative in her 30s, is the real-life Carrie Mathison (minus the slutty behavior at work). She started at the agency out of school, just before the twin towers were attacked on 9/11, and worked in Islamabad tracking terrorists with the monomaniacal zeal of Captain Ahab. Like Carrie, she’s a talented analyst but not, according to colleagues, Miss Congeniality.

The Washington Post’s Greg Miller wrote about the young woman who spent years messianically hunting down Osama bin Laden, convinced that they could find the fiend by trailing the couriers who hand-delivered messages to him. The inspiration for Maya – the character played by Jessica Chastain in the new Kathryn Bigelow/Mark Boal movie, “Zero Dark Thirty” – the CIA operative was allowed to share her story with Boal for his screenplay. She is described in the movie as a “her against the world” lone wolf and “killer” whose bosses learn life is better when they don’t disagree with her.

She was working in Pakistan as a targeter, recruiting spies and finding drone targets, when President

Barack Obama put bin Laden’s capture back on the front burner. “The operative, who remains undercover, was passed over for a promotion that many in the CIA thought would be impossible to withhold from someone who played such a key role in one of the most successful operations in agency history,” Miller writes. Who do you have to kill to get a raise around here?

Miller continued: “She has sparred with CIA colleagues over credit for the bin Laden mission. After being given a prestigious award for her work, she sent an email to dozens of other recipients saying they didn’t deserve to share her accolades, current and former officials said,” since they had tried to obstruct her.

We’ve become obsessed with the vicious undermining and murderously competing fiefdoms in the Stygian world of “Homeland.” And Miller offered insight into the real thing, noting the “waves of envy” the movie has generated as operatives wrangle over credit for felling Osama. As a former CIA associate told the reporter, the agency is “like middle-schoolers with clearances.”

In “No Easy Day,” the account of the raid by Matt Bissonnette, one of the SEALs who went after bin Laden, the female operative is called “Jen.” She wears expensive high heels and ribs Bissonnette about being part of “the boys’ club” that shows up at the very end “for the big game.”

When Bissonnette asks Jen to give him the honest odds that Osama is in the compound, she shoots back: “One hundred percent.” After the terrorist is killed and brought to a hangar in Jalalabad, she is overwhelmed and begins crying.

Bigelow, the driven director who tells the story of the driven operative, says she felt as if she’d been dealt “a royal flush” when they discovered a young woman at the center of the Osama hunt. You can say they undermine their

heroine’s story of relentless, patient data crunching by leaving the impression – a false one, according to Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee – that waterboarding played a crucial role in getting Osama. Or, as the blogger Spencer Ackerman points out on Wired.com, you can say the film boldly depicts torture as “the intersection of ignorance and brutality.”

Bigelow, too, sets off waves of envy in her insular community. The glamorous 61-year-old, the first woman to win a best director Oscar, for “The Hurt Locker,” has become Hollywood’s unsentimental premier chronicler of war. After worrying about criticism of their CIA access from the right, Bigelow and Boal are now the toasts of the right.

Some who have seen the movie say the harrowing repeated opening sequences of waterboarding, beating and degrading a detainee in a CIA black site to elicit intelligence puts “a thumb on the scale for torture,” as Slate’s Emily Bazelon writes. But the debate flares about whether this is merely “a problem of emphasis and degree, not absolute falsity,” as Bazelon argues, or whether it makes the film “borderline fascist,” as the New York magazine film critic David Edelstein referred to the “unholy masterwork.” He also named it the best movie of 2012.

Bigelow told Dexter Filkins of The New Yorker that she was taking “almost a journalistic approach to film,” while Boal told New York magazine that he uses a “hybrid of the filmic and the journalistic.” So did they gild, or in this case, waterboard the lily? Torture, after all, is a lot more “filmic” than poring over data.

As The Times’ Scott Shane and Charlie Savage have written, “the harsh techniques played a small role at most in identifying bin Laden’s trusted courier and exposing his hide-out.” □



# Toys for Tots

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